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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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VOL. XIII. PITTSBURGH, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 31, 1875. NO. 98.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

INTERVENTION IN CUBA.

A Glance at Spanish-American History.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

No Present Danger from European Combinations.

Resignations in the Treasury Department.

Meeting of Ways and Means Committee.

No Increase of Taxation or Reconstruction of Tariff Likely.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 30, 1875.

Intervention in Cuba—An Explanation.

The cabled statement that the United States had asked the views of foreign Governments on the contemplated intervention in the affairs of Cuba, is calculated to create a false impression. It is ascertained that the action of the Government was simply in the ordinary routine of diplomatic business, and was not a formal proposition. It is customary to ascertain the views of foreign Governments in an informal manner through our representatives abroad. The United States, in their international relations, are not given to seeking counsel or advice from European nations. The only countries that could have any possible interest in the affairs of this hemisphere are Spain herself and England, the possessions of other countries being unimportant. Within the last half century Spain, through her intolarance, has lost a vast Empire in America, but tenaciously clings to what she has left. England, while maintaining her possessions, has repeatedly indicated that at any time her dependencies in America are at liberty to sever their connection with the mother country. During the first quarter of the present century the South American colonies of Spain declared their independence, and were recognized by the United States, after the struggle had been maintained for a time with little hope of success to Spain. A proposition on the part of a European Government to interpose called forth the celebrated enunciation by President Monroe, in his seventh annual message, December 2d, 1823, and since adopted as the policy of the United States and popularly styled the "Monroe Doctrine." The views of Monroe were, briefly, that during the progress of disturbances in Europe the United States did not interpose; that it was their duty, however, to oppose all foreign interference in the affairs of this continent, and any such interference would be a just cause of apprehension and action on the part of the United States. The European Governments took the hint and observed it. Forty years later the French usurpation in Mexico was the first interference with this American doctrine, and its disastrous results are known. Sheridan and his hundred and fifty thousand veterans were a sufficient argument to induce the force to summarily withdraw. This lesson will doubtless be a sufficient practical illustration of the meaning of the Monroe doctrine, as applied to ambitious European monarchies. The course of our Government in the present instance is considered in strict accordance with the traditional policy of the United States. It being deemed that the public interest demands a speedy settlement of the pending strife in Cuba. The apparent activity of Spain causes no alarm here, and so far as any alliance with any European power against American intervention is concerned, none is considered out of the question. There will doubtless soon be a large representation of foreign flags in Cuban waters to watch the progress of events.

Applicants for the Latest Vacancies.

The unfavorable tenor of the investigation of the Sugg Fort and Witowski cases having resulted in the request for the resignations of Second Comptroller Brodhead and Third Auditor Rutherford, there are a number of applicants on hand for both offices. Among these may be mentioned Henry C. Rogers, of Pennsylvania, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and Assistant Solicitor Robinson. It is not likely that Mr. Rogers, though a competent officer, will get it, as it is considered that Pennsylvania has her fair share in the higher offices of the Treasury.

The Ways and Means Committee will meet next Tuesday for organization and the apportionment of business. Any attempt to increase taxation would be opposed by the Republican members, while many others of the free traders to reconstruct the duties would also be a failure, as the revenues of the Government are now barely sufficient.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 30, 1875.

THE PUBLIC DEBT STATEMENT.

The public debt statement will be issued on Monday next, the first business day of the new year.

J. M. RUTLEDGE AND THE VICE PRESIDENCY.

Casius M. Clay, of Kentucky, writes to a gentleman of this city, that his State will present his name to the National Democratic Convention in 1876 as nominee for Vice President.

Western Pork Packing Statistics.

CINCINNATI, December 30.—The Cincinnati *Price Current* to-morrow morning publishes an elaborate pork packing report, with estimates for the entire season, which indicates a falling off at all interior points of the West amounting to 570,000 and with a probable falling off at the leading cities enough to make the aggregate decrease 750,000 in number, as compared with last year. The *Price Current*, however, regards the chances as favoring a final deficiency somewhat less than this number, and that taking the increased weights into consideration, it may be safe to calculate that the hog crop will not materially vary from 5,000,000 at last year's weights, against 5,568,000, a decrease of ten per cent., and the packing to date at all points is approximately three million, against four million hogs a year ago. Ohio—Interior points show 10 @ 12 lbs decrease in weights; Indiana, about the same as last year; Illinois, 20 lbs increase; Iowa, 15 lbs increase; Missouri, 35 lbs increase; Kansas and Nebraska, 50 lbs increase, and a moderate increase in other sections.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Probabilities for To-Day.—For Tennessee and the Ohio Valley, rising barometer, south and west winds, lower temperature and partly cloudy weather.

Mrs. C. J. Howard, wife of a showman, committed suicide at Little Rock, Ark., yesterday. Cause, jealousy.

Cleveland, Ohio, and Jeffersonville, Indiana, will celebrate the advent of the Centennial year in proper style.

On and after January 1st, 1876, the Anglo-American Telegraph tariff for general news dispatches will be one shilling (twenty-five cents) gold per word.

The Nezperces Indians are threatening to drive the settlers from the Wallawalla Valley, Oregon, and General Howard has ordered two companies of cavalry to the scene.

A Boston dispatch says that a Frenchman, Charles Lagarliere, has formed a Masonic lodge of printers, pressmen, dog fanciers and some persons of higher standing, independent of the Grand Lodge of that city. He initiates the men into various degrees for a fee of ten dollars, but differences arose between himself and the brethren, and finally on suspicion of being an imposter, Lagarliere was arrested. The members whom he initiated assert that those of other lodges recognized their signs, grips and pass words as all right. Lagarliere says the whole affair is a conspiracy, and he will expose the miscreants of the Grand Lodge in court.

No Drummers—No Forced Sales!

Frequent and loud complaints are made about the drummers and runners employed by our music houses, and who persecute and annoy our citizens by their persistent and impudent attempts to thrust unreliable pianos and organs into their houses "just on trial" that they "need not buy them," and other flimsy pretexts. The public have become tired of these pests, for they know full well that really first class goods are never peddled around the country. Their only house, perhaps, which employs no runners or drummers is that of H. Kleber & Bro., and whose instruments readily sell themselves, on the strength of their intrinsic merits. Those wonderful Steinway Pianos and Burdett Organs, many thousands of which are sold in the neighborhood, require no sharp tricks to find customers. They are universally acknowledged the very best of their kind, and as such are eagerly sought after by all classes of society.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

INTERNATIONAL RIFLE MATCH.

LONDON, December 30.—The National Rifle Association of Great Britain has accepted the challenge of the New York Association to take part in a match for small bores, to be held in the United States during the Centennial celebration. Sir Henry Halford has been appointed Captain of the English team and is now busily arranging the preliminaries.

COLLECTIVE INTERVENTION.

LONDON, December 30.—Reuter's Telegram Company publish a statement that the American Minister here, in the name of his Government, has addressed the British Government for the purpose of learning its views respecting a collective intervention of European powers with the object of putting a stop to bloodshed in Cuba. The British Government has deferred answering definitely for the present. This information comes from a special and authentic source. [But it does not agree with our "special and authentic" information from Washington on this subject.—ED. COM.]

ATTAINED ITS OBJECT.

LONDON, December 31, 6 A. M.—A Berlin dispatch says the meeting of the American residents to protest against the comments of the German press on America has thoroughly attained its object. The offending journals have withdrawn their unfavorable reflections.

The *Standard's* Berlin special says the *National Zeitung* alone reiterates its offensive remarks in regard to the Bremerhaven crime.

Germany.

WHAT VON MOLTKE DIDN'T SAY.

BERLIN, December 30.—The statement published in the *Army and Navy Journal* respecting the alleged utterance of Count Moltke on West Point Military Academy and to the pupils during the war of the rebellion in the United States, is, according to reliable information, incorrect. Count Moltke, besides never having made use of the observations attributed to him, would not agree with many of the views expressed in them, and in many points even entertained opinions directly opposite.

France.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE ASSEMBLY.

PARIS, December 30.—In the Assembly to-day, the debate on the report of the Committee on Dissolution was continued. The committee had submitted a motion that the Assembly finally separate to-morrow evening, if such action was considered. Action should not be disposed of. M. Callaux, Minister of Public Works, urged the House not to adjourn until all the bills were passed. This was agreed to, and it is therefore probable that the Assembly will meet again in January. The Left is greatly dissatisfied over the delay in final adjournment. The Assembly adopted all the other recommendations of the Committee on Dissolution, viz.: That delegates to choose Senators be elected January 9th; that they proceed to the election of Senators January 23d; that general elections for members of the Chamber of Deputies be held February 20th, and both Houses meet March 8th. The Assembly will appoint permanent committees to-morrow.

Spain.

A MANIFESTO PROMISED ON THE CUBAN QUESTION.

MADRID, December 30.—The *Imparcial* newspaper asserts that Spain will shortly address a communication of importance to the European cabinets on the subject of Cuba.

Marine News.

QUEENSTOWN, December 30.—The steamship Wisconsin, from New York, has arrived.

A BAD SENATOR.

Report of the Spencer Investigating Committee to the Alabama Legislature—Senator Spencer Charged with All Sorts of Corrupt Practices.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., December 30.—The Spencer Investigating Committee reported in the Senate, which was crowded with spectators. In summing up, the committee say that he (Spencer), during the election of members of the Legislature, used means to secure for himself their votes; that he abused the army, postoffice and internal revenue departments of the Government; that he brought the evils of war upon the people, caused them to flee their homes and abstain from voting. He prostituted his office for purpose of bargains and briberies to secure votes for his re-election. He corrupted United States officials for whom he procured Federal appointments, and forced his appointees, under threats of removal from office, to pay money and some of them to commit perjury to obtain for him re-election. He caused men to be appointed to sinecure positions in the custom house, postoffices and revenue offices, with the intent and understanding that while in office they would not be required to render service to the Government, but would get their pay, and while so paid they would employ their time in securing pledges of votes and influence to re-elect him to the United States Senate. He paid and caused to be paid money to members of the Court House Assembly to secure their vote. He paid and caused to be paid money to members of the Legislature to defeat a quorum at the capital, and thereby prevent the election of a Senator by that body, and his most trusted agent, J. J. Hinds, caused a member of that body to be drugged and almost killed to prevent his attendance. He dealt in United States offices as in merchandise, to secure money and gain votes for Senator. His managers, with his concurrence, caused a State Senator, for a money consideration, to break his pledge of honor to another Senator. Having prearranged a scheme thereby to secure a seat in the United States Senate through his said managers, he procured the presiding officer of the Senate to connive at this fraud, and to rule in violation of all parliamentary law and usage so as to unseat a Senator elected by the people, and seat in his place a partisan of Spencer who was not elected by the people, and who held no certificate of election. He caused to be filled the lobby of the Senate with armed retainers to overawe Senators, and sustain by force and violence what he had achieved by fraud. He used his power and influence and money; he contracted through his position as a Senator to debauch men in office and out, so that in his conduct he was working evil continually. The report was received and ordered printed with the evidence, and the committee given time to prepare a memorial to the United States Senate against Spencer's further occupancy of a seat in that body. The report was signed by the whole committee, on which both parties were represented.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

A Whole Family Murdered.

NEW YORK, December 30.—Late this morning an officer was called to No. 356, West Fifty-third street, where he found a man named Meyers and his wife and child in bed, the former insensible, and the child dead, from pistol shot wounds. It is supposed that Meyers did the shooting.

The City Treasurer of Buffalo Gets Away With a Big Slice.

BUFFALO, N. Y., December 30.—Joseph Bork, city Treasurer, left for New York yesterday, giving as a reason that he wanted to raise money to meet personal obligations, but in fact, as was subsequently learned, to escape the immediate consequence of a heavy defalcation. It is impossible at present to determine the extent of the defalcation, but it is thought to be about a quarter of a million dollars. His second term was just drawing to a close, so that for four years he has had control of the city's funds. His bonds, $175,000, are secured by thirty-five of the most prominent and wealthy citizens. Before taking his departure, Bork made a general assignment of his property, which is estimated at $650,000. It is thought his assets will fall short of the amount of the defalcation. He has been a very extensive real estate operator, and built up the eastern portion of the city, known as East Buffalo. He was prominently named as the Republican candidate for Mayor last term.

BUFFALO, December 30.—Further developments in the case of Joseph Bork, the absconding Treasurer, shows his defalcation to foot up between $300,000 and $400,000. It is now learned that he has fled to Canada. He has confessed to several here that a system of defalcation has been carried on during his two terms of office as City Treasurer, using "cash on hand" and his individual checks on Lyon, Burk & Co., bankers. The city will not suffer, as his bondsmen are considered ample security for any deficiency.

FIRE RECORD.

Incendiarism at West Newton, Pa.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WEST NEWTON, PA., December 30, 1875.

Mr. Archie McGrew, a farmer residing near this place, had his barn burnt by an incendiary last night. He had one destroyed in the same manner, with its contents, last August.

Dennison, O.—$300.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

DENNISON, O., December 30, 1875.

About three o'clock this morning the office of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railway Company at this place, was discovered to be on fire. One room, occupied by the train master of the Pittsburgh division, was considerably damaged by the fire and completely flooded with water. The telegraph office, immediately below the train master's office, was also flooded, causing considerable inconvenience to the operators. But for the timely discovery of the fire, the loss would have been heavy to the railroad company, as the whole upper part of the building is filled with papers and records which it would have been impossible to replace. It is supposed the fire originated from a cigar stump thrown into a box of sawdust used as a spittoon. Loss about $300.

The steamship Sardinian, from Liverpool, arrived at Portland, Me., yesterday.

ALLEGHENY FINANCES.

Controller's Eleventh Annual Report.

At the meeting of Allegheny Councils last night, the eleventh annual report of the City Controller was presented, exhibiting in detail the receipts and disbursements, and the various other transactions of the financial department of the municipal government during the fiscal year commencing January, 1, 1875, and ending December 31, 1875, both inclusive. An abstract of this report was published in the COMMERCIAL of Wednesday, and we have only space at present for a few extracts embracing the remarks of Controller Brown respecting the bonded indebtedness of the city and other financial matters, which will be of interest to the taxpayers of that city.

THE BONDED INDEBTEDNESS.

After giving a detailed statement of the bonded indebtedness, the Controller says:

The bonded debt, although it has increased during the past year $99,500, is still so small in comparison with the wealth and population of the city as to afford a source of congratulation and pride on the part of our citizens.

The issue of bonds constituting the increase of the debt during the year has been entirely for the improvement of the reservoir, construction of main sewers and the completion of the Troy Hill road.

The necessity for the first named improvement, viz: the enlargement and strengthening of the reservoirs, impressed itself upon every thoughtful citizen, as the great scarcity of water of late years was seriously felt by all, and the work now completed has been carried out economically and with a view of removing all ground of complaint in this direction. This has been accomplished, and with a very small outlay compared with the great resulting benefit to the city.

To the construction of main sewers a portion of the year's increase of indebtedness is due, and their paramount necessity must be obvious to all as a sanitary measure of vital importance as well as for the comfort and convenience of the public.

The Troy Hill Improvement bonds, while an addition to the debt of the city, are secured by the lands and property benefited, and their payment will ultimately be made by the owners of property for whose convenience the road was mainly constructed, and this the city at large will not be called upon to pay this portion of the bonded indebtedness.

The eagerness with which our bonds are sought after speaks well for the credit of the city, and our financial reputation is such that they will not depreciate below their par value unless by the most wilful extravagence on the part of the city Government, so long as the city limits its issue of bonds to the making of permanent improvements, which are absolutely necessary to the public, and must largely add to the value of property in the vicinity where made its credit will be sustained, and its bonds will continue to be in demand.

The necessity now imposed by law for creating a sinking fund to meet both principal and interest of all municipal bonds, is a complete guarantee for their ultimate liquidation.

The various committees of Councils have wisely limited their outlays, in the main, to the appropriations made at the beginning of the year, and the means for carrying on the government of the city have been kept available. The only deficiency occurring has been in consequence of a failure to collect with the usual promptness the taxes levied. The prevailing stringency in money matters, and the depression in all branches of industry throughout the year, have caused this falling off, and to meet this passing difficulty, Councils resorted to a temporary loan, which will be liquidated as soon as the taxes of the current year are collected.

In closing this report I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to your honorable bodies and those of the city officers for the many courtesies extended officially and otherwise.

For further information I respectfully refer you to the accompanying detailed statement of the receipts and disbursements. Respectfully submitted,

JAMES BROWN,
Comptroller.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

The account of D. McFerron, City Treasurer, shows the receipts and expenditures for the year as follows:

RECEIPTS.

To balance on hand	$ 13,896 27
Park fund No. 1	28,276 54
Poor fund No. 1	112,693 82
Poor fund No. 2	137,586 40
Sewer fund No. 1	35,962 38
Sewer fund No. 2	40,324 77
Temporary loans	105,092 17
Proceeds of water bonds	75,804 90
Second assessment water rents	2,221 40
Market	18,815 30
Business tax	13,166 54
Wharves and landings	1,771 90
Diamond scales	2,248 98
Fourth ward scales	161 25
Second ward scales	3,391 25
City taxes	155,517 68
Wood and bark	1,472 87
Street permits	1,214 00
Sundry sources	2,721 76
Interest on unexpended balances	2,385 17
Fines and forfeitures	3,538 39
Offices and revenue offices, with the intent and understanding that while in office they would not be required to render service to the Government, but would get their pay, and while so paid they would employ their time in securing pledges of votes and influence to re-elect him to the United States Senate. He paid and caused to be paid money to members of the Court House Assembly to secure their vote. He paid and caused to be paid money to members of the Legislature to defeat a quorum at the capital, and thereby prevent the election of a Senator by that body, and his most trusted agent, J. J. Hinds, caused a member of that body to be drugged and almost killed to prevent his attendance. He dealt in United States offices as in merchandise, to secure money and gain votes for Senator. His managers, with his concurrence, caused a State Senator, for a money consideration, to break his pledge of honor to another Senator. Having prearranged a scheme thereby to secure a seat in the United States Senate through his said managers, he procured the presiding officer of the Senate to connive at this fraud, and to rule in violation of all parliamentary law and usage so as to unseat a Senator elected by the people, and seat in his place a partisan of Spencer who was not elected by the people, and who held no certificate of election. He caused to be filled the lobby of the Senate with armed retainers to overawe Senators, and sustain by force and violence what he had achieved by fraud. He used his power and influence and money; he contracted through his position as a Senator to debauch men in office and out, so that in his conduct he was working evil continually. The report was received and ordered printed with the evidence, and the committee given time to prepare a memorial to the United States Senate against Spencer's further occupancy of a seat in that body. The report was signed by the whole committee, on which both parties were represented.	1,462 00
Mercantile appraisement	6,402 98
Licenses	1,999 16
Rents	1,999 16
Interest on bonds and mortgages	1,999 16
Interest on sinking fund	1,999 16
Interest on bank deposits	1,999 16
Interest on loans	1,999 16
Interest on collateral loans	1,999 16
Interest on real estate	1,999 16
Interest on personal property	1,999 16
Interest on stocks	1,999 16
Interest on bonds	1,999 16
Interest on mortgages

The Commercial.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1875.

"THE OX knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib." The *Post* still bears aloft the gonfalon of JERE BLACK.

A DOCTOR in Cincinnati writes a column and a half to the *Gazette*, of that city, urging the abolition of horses as a dirt-creating nuisance. He must be an ass.

THE British-Malay "war" is over. For forcibly drenching unwilling barbaric throats with doses of brand new civilization, JOHN BULL is perhaps without a peer.

CANADIAN immigration has decreased during the year in nearly the same proportion as here. In 1873, 206,354 immigrants were entered, and in 1874, 140,337. This year not more than 85,000 have been registered.

IN ALL the elements of welcome to a new year those which, throughout the country, are projected for to-night, promise to eclipse all previous preparations. The Centennial year will be ushered in with general ceremony, rejoicing and acclaim.

BRICK POMEROY, formerly of the LA CROSSE *Democrat*, says that a man named STRIKE "cheated him out of the *Democrat*;" which statement furnishes Mr. STRIKE with a text for a letter, the tenor of which is, that POMEROY is a tremendous liar. They are probably both right.

NOTING the fact that recently nine tons of silver ore were received at the St. Louis Smelting Works from New Mexico, the freight on which was over $1,000, the *Republican* of that city aptly observes: "Here is a suggestion of the importance and value of the Texas Pacific Railroad."

ONE of the greatest questions of the day, not in this country alone but throughout the world, is the prevention of the pollution of the rivers, streams and lakes from which towns and cities derive their supplies of water. The subject is everywhere engrossing the attention of eminent scientists and thinkers.

THE Kentuckians now set up a claim that PROCTOR KNOTT must be well qualified for Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, because he is the ugliest man in the House. RUFUS CHOATE once said that he had great confidence in the Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, because he could say of him as the Hindoo said of his god, "I know that he is ugly, and I feel that he is great."

IF THE Democrats are determined to commit hari-kari they can hardly begin in a better way than by disbanding the army. There is not enough of it anywhere to put down a first-rate riot.—*Graphic.*

Yet it costs forty millions a year to keep it up. It is entirely too big to be kept up at that rate of cost. If it is not equal to putting down a first class riot it can very well be dispensed with altogether.

THE nation stands upon the threshold of the first completed century of its existence. What will the next century have to tell? It will be greater; will it be better, happier, wiser? May we all, at least, begin it in the spirit of grand, childlike JEAN PAUL, who said, "I have made up my mind that I will not pour into the cup of humanity a single drop of gall." So shall the better embers of the past kindle again in the ruddy fires of the future.

THE Louisville *Courier-Journal* advocates reduction not of the army, but of the War Department and expenditures, and says: "Considering the vast extent of our frontier territory, and the military establishments of the smallest nations as furnishing some standard by which to judge of our military needs, we do not think the army is too large. Compared with other armies, it is a mere handful." But it is the army alone which causes the expenditures of the War Department. It has no expenses outside of the army, and the only way to cut down its expenditures is to cut down the army which causes them.

BOSTON thinks that her paupers will have cost her at least $300,000 this year. The advent of winter threw upon the city thousands of the unemployed. Already the benevolent institutions of the city, and they are numerous, are taxed to the utmost, and what is to be done to meet the increasing cases is there, as almost everywhere else, an unsolved problem. It is, however, the advantage of American as compared with European cities, that the pauper and dangerous classes of the former do not, as with the latter, become fixed and hereditary; since thus, with us, the cause of the poor and its cause of help are to be found in every man alike. In a society in which all can climb, those who are found, generation after generation, at the foot of the ladder are, either in soul or body, presumably cripples.

CENTENNIALS begin to crowd upon us. To-day is the one-hundredth anniversary of General MONTGOMERY'S ill-starred attack on Quebec. The expedition was a military blunder, for which its commander stoned with his life. His little army had undergone inexpressible hardships during the campaign, and the soldiers were half starved and half naked. MONTGOMERY was greatly loved by his men, but it took all his influence to stir them into renewed exertion, disheartened as they were by fatigue. "Men of New York," he exclaimed, "you will not fear to follow where your General leads; march on!" then placing himself in front he almost immediately received the mortal wound which suddenly ended his life. No patriot of that period was more ardently devoted and consecrated to the cause of American liberty than he.

THE *North American* mentions a new system of insurance which has been introduced into France, and been found to work well. It says.

IN brief the conditions are these—the company agrees to replace loss by fire *only when the fire does not originate on the property insured.* The proposition is startling enough at the outset, but carefully examined has no point sound enough to invite a first place the rates are very much reduced, in accord with the limitation of risk; in the second, the great bane of interested incendiarism is avoided, wiped out in fact, for no man not a lunatic would wantonly set fire to property and suffer personal loss; thirdly, the insurer by himself and trusty agents is over on the watch to prevent carelessness with inflammable or combustible articles. No mill-owner, for instance, would permit an accumulation of old greasy rags in stray corners if "fully insured" meant nothing at all to him in case of a fire through their agency, nor would any prospective bankrupt attempt to cover up a deficiency, or a preventible loss of value, by incurring a total absolute loss.

THE House adjourned to meet on the first Tuesday of January next, and tacitly committed itself to a continuous session during the two years for which the members were elected; but the Senate was too shrewd to be committed, and simply adjourned without day.—*Philadelphia Times.*

If the *Times* will examine the Journal of the Senate, page 182, it will find that the resolution for final adjournment came over to the Senate from the House in the following shape:

"*Resolved* (If the Senate concur), That the Senate and House shall adjourn Thursday, March 18, 1875, to meet in adjourned annual session on the first Tuesday in January, 1876."

The Senate at once concurred in this resolution, yeas 35, nays 8, and so both Houses agreed to adjourn to a given day, and not without day, and on page 681 of the Senate Journal it will find this entry:

"The hour of twelve M. having arrived, the President adjourned the Senate to meet in adjourned annual session on the first Tuesday in January, A. D. 1876, at twelve M."

A similar entry will be found in the House Journal, so that the *Times* is mistaken in asserting that the Senate "simply adjourned without day." Both Houses are alike on the record.

THE results of the Government geological survey of the Western Territories, this summer, are described as being unusually rich, particularly in the discovery of prehistoric cities. There have been found in regions never before visited abundant traces of these mysterious and unknown peoples. Along the San Juan and its tributaries, or the rivers into which it empties, were discovered cliff houses and cliff villages in great numbers. Some of these were found with portions of their roofs complete, and so fully were all the parts identified that it will now be possible to accurately restore one of these villages. One of the members of the expedition is now engaged upon this work, and a miniature cliff, with one of the most perfect of these villages, is being constructed by him, from actual measurements and photographs, for exhibition at the Centennial. Plaster casts will also be taken for a number of the principal colonial museums of this country. The interest excited in Europe in these surveys of the Territories has been quite as great as in our own country, and applications are received daily at the Interior Department, and at the office of the survey, for reports and photographs. Indeed, the attention of scientists throughout the world is now earnestly fixed upon the progress and the discoveries of these national surveying parties.

THE O. A. U.

The New York *Evening Post* prints the following as having been received from the officers of the "O. A. U." It would seem to be conclusive as to the actual existence of the order, and is the first authoritative statement of its principles. The denial of all connection with the third term folly should be conclusive on that point.

There are millions of voters in this country who can heartily say "Amen!" to the principles herein set forth, but very few of them can be brought to approve the formation of a secret society to promote them. There is said to be a right and a wrong way to do every thing, and it is decidedly the wrong way to advance these principles by backing them up with the mummeries of a secret political order. We quote:

"NEW YORK, December 28, 1875.

"The National Executive Committee of the Order of the American Union deem it advisable to promulgate a summary of the principles which underlie and energize their actions as citizens and as members of the order.

"They do not here advance arguments in defense of these principles, nor offer apology for holding them; they simply state them, leaving the question of their acceptance or rejection to every man's judgment and discretion.

"The issues raised by this enunciation of principles are neither new or extraordinary; nor will their announcement raise either new advocates or new antagonists. The issues presented are as old as the Reformation, the interests involved are identical.

"I.—We accept the Bible as the basis of all moral, religious, governmental and educational undertakings.

"II.—We yield an unhesitating support to the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the several States.

"III.—We urge that the present system of our general unsectarian free school organization shall be maintained inviolate.

"IV.—We claim that no part of the public funds shall ever be used for the support or maintenance of any sectarian school or institution whatever.

"We are opposed to any interference in political affairs by any man or body of men acting in behalf or by direction of any ecclesiastical body or power, yet we make no war upon any man's religious creed.

"The object and purposes of our order are few and simple, and we give them publicity. The ways and means of conducting our business matters, the methods by which we propose to secure the desired results are peculiarly our own, and we intend to keep them to ourselves. 'Third term or one term,' 'Democracy or Republicanism,' 'Hard money, or soft money,' 'Crooked whisky or straight,' are entirely outside of our aims and plans, and receive no attention whatever.

"To sustain and advance the ideas above summarized we propose to use all lawful and suitable measures at all times that to us seem to be propitious, with all persons who labor for their triumph, against all agencies which seek their overthrow and destruction. As in the past, so for the future, we invite, and expect to receive the co-operation and aid of thousands of sturdy, stalwart, patriotic thoughtful men, who love their country with an ardor surpassing that of party, sect or clan.

"GEORGE D. WEEKS, President.
"HENRY T. HOLT,
"Brooklyn, N. Y., Secretary."

THE Indianapolis *Journal* proposes that at high noon (Washington city time), on January 1, 1876, all the people of the United States shall gather at their respective county towns and sing the Star Spangled Banner. It estimates that ten millions of voices would thus join simultaneously in sounding the national anthem, and that the united force of this mass of singers would reverberate around the world and make the monarchs of the old world tremble. Which it probably would, if it were not for the probability that a similar fate would overtake it which befel a like effort once made in China. At a specified moment every man, woman and child in the world was to let out a yell that would reach to the moon and bring it tumbling down upon the earth. The people all gathered, as directed; but each one, instead of yelling his best, stood still and listened patiently for the infernal howl of the rest. The result was that the only voice that went up to the moon on that occasion was that of an old deaf bummer who couldn't hear. In this case the only vocalist who will sing will be the *basso profundo* of the Indianapolis *Journal*. He might possibly get the editor of the Pittsburgh *Gazette* to help him if he would change the "hime" to the third-term song which that vocalist has just set to music.

THE latest Suez Canal rumor is to the effect that DISRAELI has been acting in the interest of the Jewish people, and under the impression that he is to be a leading instrument in bring about their promised return to Palestine. The acquisition of so large an interest in the Suez Canal is, it is said, but the first step toward acquiring a paramount power for the English nation in Palestine, and, that once secured, the long-prophesied return of the Jews need not, and naturally would not, long be delayed. There may possibly be something in this, but it is doubtful. The ablest Jewish paper in this country—the *Hebrew Leader*—maintains that the Jews have strengthened by dispersion, and that they will never return to Palestine. It appears, moreover, that Mr. FREDERICK GREENWOOD, the editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, a former co-laborer with THACKERAY on the *Cornhill Magazine*, is really the originator of the transaction for which DISRAELI is receiving credit. After all, the real ruler of the world is the press.

The Greenback.

SALEM, O., December 28, 1875.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Your editorial article on the "Greenback" in yesterday's issue is heartily praised by many citizens, without distinction of party, and the faith and sentiment expressed in the following declarations which find a place among other good things in said article, certainly harmonize with the sober, deep convictions of a large majority of the people composing the Republic:

"The greenback is linked by a thousand patriotic associations with our grand national contest, and as it helped to carry the country through the crisis of its fate, we can see no good reason for being in a hurry to get rid of it. There are solid and strong arguments for allowing the holders of national currency to fund it in national bonds, if they want to; but there are no arguments to justify the country in wishing to drive that money out of circulation."

"We protest against any attempt to demonetize the greenbacks. If anything further is done by Congress with reference to their value, it should be to *enhance*, not to depreciate their worth."

Plain words bravely spoken! I know, Mr. Editor, that thousands of loyal and patriotic hearts will thank you for this timely protest in behalf of a usury-ridden people.

President Grant, in his annual message, 1873, did, as you say, declare to his people that our greenback was the "best money that had ever been devised," and that there was "not too much for the dullest period of the year."

Treasurer Spinner has always faithfully urged the virtue and potency of our legal tender note, and in his report for 1873, page 296, says: "The attribute of the convertibility of these notes into a stock of the United States, should be restored."

Since that time the President has vetoed a bill for an increase of the currency, and in his late message recommends the destruction of the legal tender property of our paper money. Secretary Bristow, in *his* late report, says: "The faith of the Government now stands pledged to resumption on and after January 1, 1879, and to the final redemption and *removal from* the currency of the country of the *legal tender notes as fast as they shall be presented for redemption.* * * * To resume on the first of January, 1879, without further legislation, would *require a large amount of gold in the Treasury* in order to avert the possibility of failure of the plan."

Now let us refer to a few significant facts, and see whether or not the indications are pointing to the accumulation of this "large amount of gold." According to report of finances June, 1875, the Treasury contained in coin $84,000,000 of specie. October 31, 1875, the report showed $73,000,000, a falling off of $11,000,000 in half a year. On the 4th of June, 1874, the New York banks held $25,517,400 of specie, and on the 5th of June, 1875, they held but $10,655,200, a falling off of about two-fifths in one year. According to the late reports of the national banks, *all* of the national banks of the eight principal cities of the West, viz: Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Detroit, had an aggregate liability of $154,199,401. Of this amount there is due individual depositors the sum of $66,678,902. This amount is subject to check at any time, and the slightest inclination or supply of specie to meet these liabilities is $116,816! being about 7-100 of one per cent. of the total liabilities, and about 17-100 of one per cent. of deposits.

It is estimated that it takes $200,000,000 annually to pay the interest on our Government, State, railroad, municipal and other bonds held in foreign countries. This keeps the United States drained of gold, and is likely to for many years to come.

With the facts staring us in the face, I ask, Mr. Editor, in God's name, had not the people better waken up and avert the calamity which this scheme of forced resumption and destruction of our greenback must inevitably bring upon us if it is persisted in?

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

To-morrow is Good Resolution Day.

O, The wrangling and the jangling of the bells, to-night.

Vesuvius is issuing inflammatory notices preparatory to another grand "blow out."

Bivalves and fresh beef are beginning to figure quite largely in American exports.

Iowa has just entered on the thirtieth year of her age, fresh, vigorous and beautiful.

And now free-trade John Bull actually wants to try a little "incidental protection" in his!

The old year is going out of existence in a very meek, not to say pusillanimous sort of way.

Indian club practice. The Sioux Indians have a thoroughly organized secret society.

The Spirit of Seventy-six is abroad. The old flag will be one hundred years old to-morrow.

Egypt is in advance of us in some things. The metrical system will be in force there from to-morrow.

Christmas presents that were not made last Saturday may be handed over to-morrow, just as well.

Eighteen years of pent-up powers in the penitentiary is what Utica, New York, judges give masked burglars.

A coiled metaphor. In an ode to Mrs. Browning a Western poet says "her genius is a pathos twisted round a pique."

Membraneous croup, typhoid pneumonia and kindred diseases are so prevalent in Kansas as to amount to an epidemic.

Young America. The Maine Reform School boys gagged their keeper the other day, and ran away, taking his keys with them.

Oregon says she can raise better crops of hops than any State in the Union, and she proposes to supply Australia and other markets.

The priesthood of literature. "If I had not read Carlyle I should never have made my leather so good," said an English tanner, recently.

Glad of it. The attempt to put the bonds of the bogus Keokuk and Kansas City Railway upon the London market has been a complete failure.

A species of red granite has lately been discovered in Minnesota, said by competent judges to be superior to the famous Scotch granite of Aberdeen.

Chicago is beginning to put on literary airs. Its publishing business this year has been equal to that of New York in 1860, amounting to $3,000,000.

Joyce is writing a novel. In the first chapter he says his father and mother had known each other from childhood *separated only by a salmon stream.*

To-morrow will be the one hundredth anniversary of the adoption by the Continental Army of the Star Spangled Banner as a standard. Hoist the flag!

Somebody has discovered a chemical process by which worthless tobacco is transformed into fine-looking and fair-tasting cigars, and now there will be more puffery than ever.

Does revision revise? By an "inadvertance" in the revision of the Illinois statutes there is a question whether quit-claim deeds in that State are not converted into warranty deeds.

Hog packing at the West is brisk, and it is predicted that when the entire business of the season is concluded the shortage, as compared with last year, will be much less than was anticipated.

Disraeli knows a thing or two. He says: "The President of the United States is not he sovereign of the United States. The sovereign of the United States is the people of the United States."

Father Boehm, who died on Monday, preached at the first Methodist campmeeting ever held in this country. It was held on the peninsula between Chester and Smyrna, in this State, 1805.

The Chicago *Tribune* thinks that the North will soon find a new large trade with the negroes of the South, with the Chinese on the Pacific slope and with our Mexican and Cuban neighbors.

Poetic justice. A Missouri lawyer who had exacted an exorbitant fee from a client whom he had cleared of a criminal charge, was robbed by the latter while returning home from court, the other day.

Next Monday the annual sale of pews will take place at Plymouth church. Any body can discount the result. The demand will be as lively as ever, and will come from the same people as heretofore.

PERSONAL.

The tall, bearded Secretary of War is a great hero among the small boys of Washington. One of the juvenile admirers said to him the other day, "I want you to come to see me to my house; I want to show you to my dog!"

A Polish pastor in New York has sued the trustees of his church for $50,000 damages for libel. The following contains the animus of the charges: "Ksladz Mialcuszny (Uttrad) wam sio eyeze dziewial doller-onn," which means "Pastor Mialcuszny has stolen from us $160."

A hundred years ago to-day General Montgomery was killed at Quebec. A correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, writing from that city, states that a sword said to be that of General Montgomery, and which is the property of a private gentleman in Quebec, is now offered for sale and is on exhibition at the museum of Morin College.

Henry James, the brilliant essayist, has gone to Paris for the winter, and is busy with various literary projects. So also has Charles Warren Stoddard, the author of the dreamy and poetic "South Sea Idyls." Mr. Stoddard has been living for a year or two in Italy, and is now contemplating a visit to Egypt before he returns to San Francisco. Meantime he meditates "the great American novel."

The New York Equitable Life Insurance Company has employed a colored man who is six feet nine inches in height, as a policeman. He is dressed in uniform, and all he has to do is to walk the basement hall and preserve order. He hails from Virginia, and was formerly a slave. Thousands of persons walk through the hall expressly to see him, and he is justly regarded by down town folks as one of the sights of that metropolis.

The notorious Henry Clay Dean lately lectured in Des Moines, Iowa. After the lecture a number of gentlemen were conversing on the street, among them being Rev. J. A. Nash, a pioneer settler, and well known by the Baptist denomination of the State. Dean came up, and placing his hand on the shoulder of Mr. Nash, said: "Brother Nash, I like you; you are a good man; but I don't think much of your goose-pond salvation plan." A hearty laugh was the response to the bruesque expression; Mr. Nash very quietly replied: "No, Mr. Dean, if newspaper accounts are correct, you don't believe in either spiritual or physical regeneration by water." Whereupon the apostle of dirt shambled away.

Does Handwriting Reveal Character?

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

From the time that Belshazzar was startled from his propriety by the wierd handwriting on the wall, the world has had a curious interest in that language which translates ideas occularly instead of vocally, and out of the varied phases of this interest is that which attaches to the theory of an existing connection between a man's signature and his mind. Some autographs, like some intellects, are a jumble, and convey no adequate indication of anything in particular, but there are others, like that of bold John Hancock, that, like a telegraphic tap or a phonographic sign, tells a volume in the compass of a second. The signature of Willard Glazier, the youthful yet famous author, is one of those suggestive signs-manual, and if there is any truth in the assumed relationship which, it is alleged, exists between the character of his penmanship and his mind, this writer must be at once clear and bold, original and direct of purpose. The fact is, this rising young author's autograph is the most singular I have ever examined, and of course it is altogether indescribable by means of mere type. It shows a firm, decided hand, a clear and perfectly accurate eye, a quaint and curious fertility of imagination, a constant and critical nicety of handling, and a profusion of touch that must exist in complete harmony in the nature of its soldier-author. VET.

THOSE were curious days (one hundred years ago in London), and nothing in them was more curious than the manner in which gentlemen dined when they proposed to celebrate the after-dinner period of the evening to seeing life. On one occasion a preliminary banquet took place at the Blue Posts, when the guests drank after salmon, Glenlivat whisky, after mackerel, sherry, throughout dinner gin punch, with the cheese a glass of port, after dinner a glass of old rum, and finally, at dessert—which consisted of olives, toast and deviled biscuits—port at discretion. Then the company went the rounds of the sporting public houses, where, in maintenance of their character as Corinthian Blades, they purchased silk handkerchiefs—the colors of intending combatants—and tickets for prize-fighters' benefits. They also, it appears, drank more spirits, which (because they were adulterated) made them wake morning with splitting headaches.

OHIO NEWS.

Zanesville has 3,063 school children enrolled, out of an enumeration of 5,370, or fifty-seven per cent. of the whole number. About 350 did not attend school of all during the year.

Mr. James Bradford, one of the most prominent business men of Cincinnati, died on the 25th inst. He was a native of Ireland. He established himself as a manufacturer of mill stones in 1832, and was very successful. His estate is reputed worth $500,000.

Mr. Matt Green, of Springfield, roadmaster of the C., S. and C. Railroad, had one of his ankles so badly mashed at Plattsburg, Clark county, Thursday morning, that amputation of his leg below the knee was necessary. Mr. Green assisted in building the road, and has been in its service ever since it was constructed.

President Orton, of the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College, is preparing a map, ten by twelve feet, to be exhibited at the Centennial Exposition, showing, on a large scale, all the coal and ore mines, fire clay, furnaces, etc., and everything relating to the geological resources of Ohio.

George Andrews, of Tontagony, Wood county, was attacked by two highwaymen two miles from Sandusky on Wednesday night. Both the men presented revolvers. Andrews gave one of the men six dollars in small change. The highwaymen asked for more, when the latter drew a pistol, shot one of the robbers and fled.

The Ohio Wool Growers' Association, the Ohio Short Horn Breeders' Association, and the Ohio, West Pennsylvania and West Virginia Merino Sheep Breeders' Association, will meet in Columbus on Tuesday, January 4th. On Wednesday, 5th, the State Board of Agriculture holds its annual session, during which several new members will be elected. The county societies throughout the State should and probably will be represented.

A correspondent of the Steubenville *Herald* claims that neither Ephraim Cable nor St. Clair Kelly was the first white child born in Ohio, and states that in April, 1764, a white woman was captured in Virginia by the Delaware Indians, and taken to Waka ornika, their village, now the city of Dresden. This woman gave birth to a child in July following, and when the Indians surrendered to General Bouquet, she and her child were surrendered to her husband, a volunteer under that officer. This infant, the writer claims, was the first white child born on Ohio ground.

How She Keeps House.

Mrs. Innis, wife of the Sheriff of Plymouth county, Iowa, is the latest heroine risen to notice in the public press, and all through her efficiency as a housekeeper. The Sheriff's family live in the jail at Le Mars. Lately William Sheridan, an escaped horse thief from the Blue Earth, Minnesota, Jail, was caught and caged at Le Mars until he could be safely transferred back to Blue Earth. The second night of Sheridan's incarceration at Le Mars, Innis was in Sioux City on business, and left Mrs. Innis to act as Jailor. That night Sheridan attempted to cut and bore his way to freedom, and Mrs. Innis, hearing the noises, quickly comprehended the situation. She did not flutter and faint, or poke her head out of the window and call for help. She got up and drew on a spare pair of her husband's breeches, coat and hat, and boots, to match, armed herself with the official pistol, and strode gallantly to the room in which the horse thief was locked and at work. Mrs. Innis unlocked the door, cocked the pistol, and, with her steady right arm pointing it at Sheridan's head, demanded the tools with which he was carpentering. The thief saw the supposable man on duty, and forthwith complied. He threw out of the door, at Mrs. Innis' feet, three auger bits and some other handy tools, and retired peaceably to his corner. Mrs. Innis locked the door and retired to rest in sweet peace, and the prisoner was safe in the morning.

A Valuable Medical Treatise.

The edition for 1876 of the sterling Medical Annual, known as Hostetter's Almanac, is now ready, and may be obtained, free of cost, of druggists and general country dealers in all parts of the United States and British America, and indeed in every civilized portion of the Western Hemisphere. It combines, with its considerable medical advice for the preservation and restoration of health, a large amount of interesting and amusing light reading, and the calendar, astronomical calculations, chronological items, &c., are prepared with great care, and will be found entirely accurate. The issue of Hostetter's Almanac for 1876 will probably be the largest edition of a medical work ever published in any country. The proprietors, Messrs. Hostetter & Smith, Pittsburgh, Pa., on receipt of a two cent stamp, will forward a copy by mail to any person who cannot procure one in his neighborhood.

E. F. Kunkel's Bitter Wine of Iron

Has never been known to fail in the cure of weakness attended with symptoms, indisposition to exertion, loss of memory, difficulty of breathing, general weakness, horror of disease, weak nervous feeling, dreadful horror of death, night sweats, cold feet, weakness, dimness of vision, languor, universal lassitude of the muscular system, enormous nervous irritability of the system, blotches, blushing of the body, dryness of the skin, pallid countenance and eruptions on the face, dizziness of the head, pain in the back, heaviness of the eyelids, frequent black spots flying before the eyes with temporary suffusion and loss of sight, want of attention, etc. These symptoms all arise from weakness, and the remedy that use E. F. Kunkel's Bitter Wine of Iron. It never fails. Thousands are now enjoying health who have used it. Get the genuine. Sold only in $1 bottles. Take only E. F. Kunkel's. Principal Office, No. 259 North Ninth street, Philadelphia, Pa. Ask for Kunkel's Bitter Wine of Iron. This truly valuable tonic has been so thoroughly tested by all classes of the community that it is now deemed indispensable as a Tonic medicine. It enriches the blood, purifies the blood and gives tone to the stomach, renovates the system and prolongs life.

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Tape Worm Removed Alive.

Head and all complete in two hours. No fee till head passes. Send Pin and Stomach removed by Dr. KUNKEL, 259 North Ninth street. Advice free, No fee until cured. Ask for Dr. KUNKEL'S WORM SYRUP. Price $1, and guaranteed. Send for circular. MWF

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WILLIAM M. SCUDDER.
The business will be conducted under the firm of GULICK & VAN KLEECK, who only are authorized to collect and liquidate the business of the firm.
NOTICE.
The firm of NICHOLS & MILLS is this day dissolved, I. Mills, jr., purchasing the entire business, which will be continued under the old style of I. MILLS & CO.
Braddocks, December 13, 1875.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the partnership existing between J. McGUIRE and HENRY SCHMIDT, partners doing basin as J. McGUIRE & CO., at corner of Market street and Liberty avenue, is this day dissolved, J. McGuire retiring. The business will be continued by the remaining partner, HENRY SCHMIDT, alone is authorized to settle the business of the late firm.
HENRY SCHMIDT.
J. McGUIRE.
Pittsburgh, December 29, 1875.

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HENRY SCHMIDT.
J. McGUIRE.
Pittsburgh, December 29, 1875.
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WEDNE SDAY, DE CEMBER 29, 1875.
Dress Go ods, House keeping Go ods, Etc.
Extra Good Bargains in Every Department of the
WILLIAM SEMPLE'S, Nos. 165, 167 and 169 Federal Street,
Full, New, Fresh and Complete Stock of
SPECIAL ANN OUNCEMENT!
We are now receiving and will open shortly our first invoice of our own im portations of Dress Goods, Dress Silks, Table Damasks, Towels and Towelings, Napkins, White Goods of all kinds, Hamburg Edgings, Kid Gloves, &c., all of the goods bearing our trade mark, "The Flag and the Thistle." These goods being ordered at Special prices, by which we can offer inducements equaled by but few houses in America. We are determined to divide the profits between manufacturers and consumers, and no inter mediate profits between manufacturers and ourselves, it will be apparent to all that we can offer inducements

Our large and rapid sales for cash enables us to make purchases late in the season of large lots of DRESS GOODS, &c., and also to offer those at even less than manufacturers' cost of production.
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At Very Low Prices.
Our Usual Good Bargains in Dress Goods, at 12½c, 15c and 18½c.
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Of every description, at the Very Lowest Prices,
A New and Full Line of
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Our own importations, at all the popular prices and the best possible value for the money.
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Black Cashmeres,
All grades, from 50 cents to $2 50 per yard.
Special attention is called to our line of
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Full assortment from 75c to $2

FINANCE AND TRADE

THURSDAY EVENING, December 30, 1875.

At this season of the year not much activity is expected in commercial circles, excepting among the dealers in notions and holiday goods. The banks are many of them preparing to close up the transactions of the year and are consequently fully occupied. The merchants are also settling up, this week, their accounts for 1875, with very little hope of a satisfactory showing. Those, however, who have the courage to go ahead and have the capital to withstand the shrinkage that has taken place, and who conduct future operations on correct and well established principles, will surely find remuneration in the future. There is a basis for a profitable business in this country, all croakers to the contrary notwithstanding.

An exchange says: "No country ever before had a richer abundance of all the elements of prosperity. The people were never so free from indebtedness or in a better position for carrying on all the details of industry. They have hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of cotton and wheat to sell to the old world consumers, and nature lavishes on our people, as never before, all the elements of an enduring prosperity."

—There is considerable feeling manifested, I oh among the banks and the public, on the subject of the usury law brought into notice by the recent decision of the United States and Pennsylvania Supreme Courts. We have several communications on the subject which we do not print as they exhibit hasty and partisan opinions taken from interested standpoints on both sides. The question is worthy of the gravest consideration, as there is much to be said on both sides. It is to be hoped that calm discussion may bring our Legislature to act for the best interests of the people as a whole, ignoring the partisan views of either borrowers or lenders. As wealth accumulates, and enlightened views are disseminated, we find the tendency to less restrictive legislation developing itself. The law of Pennsylvania is now far more liberal than it was twenty years ago, and we hope the time is not far distant when the Massachusetts law shall be enacted. In that State six per cent. is the legal rate, when there is no agreement for a different rate, but any rate of interest may be received or contracted for between the parties, provided, however, that no greater rate than six per cent. can be recovered in any suit unless the agreement to pay the same is in writing.

—It is hinted that legislation is to be attempted in New York and at Washington looking to the taxing of the *surplus* of the national banks. The *Financial Chronicle* thinks "it will tend, if it be enforced, to weaken the banks at the very time when every consideration of expediency and of financial statesmanship combines to urge the Legislature to give to the banking mechanism of the country all possible aid to meet the pressure of approaching resumption." It further says: "The New York County National Bank, a small, well-managed institution of New York city, has voted to divide a large part of its surplus among its stockholders. Several other banks have done the same thing, or are about to do so, and it is easy to see that if the agitation of this new movement is not stopped, one of the effects of it will be the early distribution of an important portion of the surplus of the city banks, and its division as extra dividends among the stockholders. And again: Every surplus is neither more nor less than an insurance fund, consisting of undivided profits, and lying back of the ordinary capital of a bank, to guarantee the solvency of the institution and to secure the payment of its depositors. The greater the surplus of any bank, the greater, other things being equal, is the safety and protection of the public in dealing with that bank. This new tax is not unlikely to bring on a collision between the State and Federal jurisdiction similar to that recently noticed in the penalties for usury. By the United States currency law, the banks are compelled to lay up, as a surplus fund, one-tenth of their annual profits. It is well known that the best of city banks have accumulated a large surplus, and that public opinion requires that this fund should be kept up. Hence, a few banks have met this demand for a large surplus by accumulations far exceeding the twenty per cent. of the capital which the law requires. It is argued that as this surplus fund has been created, and is enforced by the direct injunction of the United States laws, and as the State government has never, till lately, attempted to subject it to taxation, the present attempt is repugnant both to the principles of equity and to the Constitution of the United States."

—We have the following communication from a city correspondent, giving the different rates of freight charged by the railroads on shipments from Philadelphia to the Western cities, and from this city to same points.

The charges on the five classes of freight per hundred pounds to Chicago, are as follows:

	Class—				
	1st.	2d.	3d.	4th.	5th.
From Philadelphia	27c	23c	18c	18c	14c
From Pittsburgh	80	60	40	25	20*
Charges to St. Louis—					
From Philadelphia	38	32	26	26	21
From Pittsburgh	$1 10	80	55	40	35*
Charges to Cincinnati—					
From Philadelphia	27	23	18	18	14
From Pittsburgh	70	50	30	25	20*

*Car loads.

Our correspondent further states that as soon as the Vermont Central and Grand Trunk Railways issued the reduced tariff to the West from Boston, the New York Central adopted the same tariff to protect the interests of New York city, and the Pennsylvania Central did the same to protect the interests of Philadelphia, but as yet the Pennsylvania Company have given no intimation that they intend to protect Pittsburgh and her languishing manufacturing interests.

OFFICE OF TRASK & STONE, BANKERS AND BROKERS, NO. 7 WALL STREET, NEW YORK, December 29, 1875.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The stock market opened at about the closing quotations of last evening, but it has shown evidences of weakness ever since the morning, owing to the persistent hammering of Lake Shore, which closes at 59¾, against 58 at the opening of business. Pacific Mail was also attacked and closed at 39¾, after selling at 39¾ early in the day. We hear that a strong party has been formed in it, or rather that the old clique have been re-inforced by good and efficient friends, who are merely depressing its quotations temporarily, in order to purchase as much of this stock at the lower quotations.

As for St. Paul preferred, we still hear very favorable reports, although the official is vouchsafed to the outside holders.

Western rates have been sustained and seem to be gaining friends daily.

Other stocks are inactive and without special feature. So far as the immediate future of our market is concerned, we are hardly prepared to express an opinion.

Money remained active at 7 per cent., gold interest.

Yours truly,
TRASK & STONE.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:00
December 30, 1875.	A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.
Gold	112	113	112½	112½	113	113
U. S. 1881 coup	123½	....	....	....	....	....
5-20's, 1865	115¾	....	115¾	....	....	....
5-20's, 1865, registered	115¾	....	115¾	....	....	....
5-20's, 1867	119	....	119	....	....	....
5-20's, 1867, registered	118¾	....	119	....	....	....
5-20's, 1868	122	....	122¾	....	....	....
10-40's	117¾	....	117¾	....	....	....
10-40's, registered	117¾	....	117¾	....	....	....
Currency 6's	122¾	....	122¾	....	....	....
New 5 per cents	116	116¼	116¼	....	....	....
Western Union Tel	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾
Quicksilver	17¾	....	17¾	....	....	....
Pacific Mail	39¾	39	39	39	39¼	39¼
Adams Express	99	....	99	....	....	....
Adams Express	101½	....	101½	....	....	....
Wells, Fargo & Co	96	....	96	....	....	....
American Express	56½	....	56½	....	....	....
United States Express	82	....	82	....	....	....
New York Central	124¾	....	124¾	....	....	....
Erie	15¾	15¾	16	15¾	....	....
Michigan Central	90	....	90	....	....	....
Michigan Southern	59¾	59¾	59¾	59¾	....	....
Illinois Central	97	....	97	....	....	....
Cleve. & Pittsburgh	99½	....	99½	....	....	....
Chicago & North'w'n	56	56	56	56	....	....
Do preferred	76	....	76	....	....	....
Rock Island	104½	....	....	105	104¾	104¾
St. Paul, common	37	....	....	38	37¾	37¾
Do preferred	68¾	....	....	69¾	69¾	69¾
Wabash	7½	....	....	7½	....	....
Fort Wayne	97	....	....	97	....	....
Ohio & Mississippi	17	....	....	17	....	....
Union Pacific	74	....	....	74	....	....
Marions	19½	....	....	....	....	....
Hannibal & St. Jos	20¾	....	....	20¾	....	....
Atlantic & Pac., pref'd	31	....	....	31	....	31¾
Iron Mountain	13	....	....	13	....	....
C., C. & I. C.	4½	....	....	4½	....	....
Missouri Pacific	....	....	....	....	12	12
South Carolinas, Ap.	34	....	....	34	....	....
South Carolinas, 1869	102½	....	....	102½	....	....
Missouri 6's	102¾	....	....	....	....	....

(By Associated Press.)

Gold Closed at 113.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, December 30.—Money 7 per cent., gold, 1-32 per diem, closing at 3@4 per cent.

The specie to-day $285,000. Prime paper 6@8 per cent. Customs re. $274,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $1,967,000. Clearings $13,000,000. Sterling at 484@488.

GOLD.

Gold at 112¾, fell off to 112¾ and at the close recovered to 113. Rates paid for carrying were 6, 7, 6¾, 5, 5¾ and 3 per cent.; loans also made at that.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds firm. Railroad bonds active and strong. State securities quiet. Stocks dull but in the main strong. The market was without noteworthy feature. Transactions 86,000 shares, of which 15,000 were Pacific Mail, 6,000 Western Union, 42,000 Lake Shore and 3,000 Michigan Central. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.			
W. U. Telegraph	79¾	N. J. Central	106
Pacific Mail	39¾	Rock Island	104½
Mariposa	8¼	St. Paul	35¾
Do preferred	18½	Do preferred	69¾
Adams Express	101¾	Toledo & Wabash	37½
Wells Fargo Ex	84	Do preferred	47½
American Ex	56½	Fort Wayne	97½
United States Ex	82	Do preferred	20
New York Central	124¾	Terre Haute	5
Erie	15¾	Chicago & Alton	97½
Do preferred	31	Do preferred	105½
Harlem	130	Ohio & Mississippi	16¾
Michigan Central	90	Delaware & Lack	120
Mich. Central	59¾	Atlantic & Pac Tel	18¾
Panama	125	Indiana Central	32
Lake Shore	59¾	Burling'n & Quincy	112¾
Illinois Central	97	Hannibal & St. Joe	20¾
Cleve. & Pitts	99½	Union Pac. stock	74
Northwestern	39¾	Cen. Pac. bonds	108
Do preferred	56¾	Union Pac. bonds	109¾
C., C. & I	4½	Do land grant	105¾
Indiana Central	3¾	Do sink. fund bds	94

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	123¾	New 5's	116½
5-20's, 1865	115¾	10-40's registered	117¾
5-20's, 1865, new	120¾	10-40's coupons	117¾
5-20's, 1867	122¾	Currency 6's	122¾
5-20's, 1868	122¾		

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee, old	67	Virginia, new	39¼
Tennessee, new	39¼	Missouri 6's	102¾
Virginia, old	40		

LONDON, December 30, 5 P. M.—The bullion in the Bank of England has decreased £324,000 the past week. The amount of bullion withdrawn on balance to-day was £28,000. The proportion of reserve to liabilities is 33¼ per cent. The Directors of the Bank of England to-day fixed the rate of discount at 4 per cent. The rate of discount in open market for three months' bills was 3⅝ per cent., or ¼ below the Bank of England rate. The rate for money on Stock Exchange for Government securities was 2 per cent. Consols for money and account 92 15-16. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, 104; do 1867, 107¾; 10-40's 109½; new 5's 109¼. Railroad securities—New York Central 98; Erie 14¾; do preferred 29.

PARIS, December 30.—The specie in the Bank of France increased 9,782,000 francs the past week. Rentes 60 francs 85 centimes.

FRANKFORT, December 30.—United States bonds—New 5's, 99⅞.

NEW ORLEANS, December 30.—Gold 112¾. Sight ½ discount. Sterling—Commercial 5 41@5 42; bank nominal.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, December 30, 1875.

The market continues dull, presenting nothing that is either new or important as relates to prices or demand. Buyers are purchasing merely sufficient to meet their immediate wants, and this will be the situation until the new year has put in an appearance. Activity at this time of the year would be the exception, not the rule.

Our rivers are in fine navigable order, from headwaters to the mouth.

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce since our last:

Flour, bbls	455
Corn, bus	1,350
Barley, bus	1,088
Oats, bus	4,282
Bacon, lcs	45
Wheat, bus	1,440
Rye, bus	400
Butter, pkgs	73
Potatoes, bus	1,615

Grain, Flour and Feed.

The market was a quiet one, being entirely devoid of anything like animation. Prices are nominally unchanged of certain articles. The receipts are on the increase, whilst for others just the reverse is the situation.

WHEAT—We hear of sales of Michigan white at $1 34@1 40; Pennsylvania and Ohio $1 33@1 35; Northwestern red $1 35@1 38; prime red winter wheat $1 27@1 30. Grades are dull at $1 15 @1 25; rejected do $1 00@1 10, as to quality. Corn was in moderate demand without any notable change; sales of new shelled at 55c; new ear at 48@50c for mixed; 51@54c for choice white; yellow shelled choice 51@54c. Oats—Market steady with sales of Pennsylvania white at 46c; Ohio do 42@46. We quote choice Western white at 44@46c; prime do 42@44c; Ohio and Pennsylvania do 42@44c; dark to light mixed, 39@41. Barley—Canada $1 30@1 35 ₱ bushel; choice spring $1 18@1 23; common to prime do $1 00@1 15; choice fall $1 10@1 15; low grades do 90c@$1 05. Rye—80@83c ₱ bushel for prime. Jobbing lots of corn and oats rule 3@5c above quotations.

FLOUR—There is little expectation by some dealers of an advance in prime grades of flour during the next month, but at present prices are only steady, with an active jobbing demand for first-class brands. We quote the wholesale prices of the local millers as follows: No. 3 white family, $5 00@5 25; No. 2 do $5 50@6 00; do ₱ 25 red wheat flour $6 25@7 00; in sacks 25c off ₱ bbl. The jobbing prices of the leading dealers for standard brands of flours are: Superfine, $4 25@4 50; fancy do $4 75@5 00; family flour $5 00@5 50; well known brands of family flour $7 00@7 25; Wisconsin is quoted at $6 50@6 75; Minnesota $6 75@7 00; fancy St. Louis $6 00@6 50; choice patents $7 50@7 00; new red winter wheat flour is active at $5 00@5 25; Graham is $4 75@5 00; and rolling mill, in 6 ₱ packages, $3 25 ₱ dozen packages; cornmeal 80c per bushel; oatmeal $7 00 ₱ bbl; kegs $3 75. Rye flour is $3 50@3 75.

HAY—Under the influence of a liberal supply the market is weak and depressed, with no demand except for prime grades. We quote prime No. 1 timothy, on track, at $18 00@19 00 ₱ ton; No. 2 do $17 00@17 00; upland prairie $12 00@14 00. Sales from store were steady at $21 00@22 00.

MILL FEED—The overstocked and depressed condition of the trade continues and prices are heavily shaded. We quote bran at 80@85c ₱ cwt; seconds 95c@$1 00 ₱ cwt; middlings $1 15@1 25 ₱ cwt; corn meal in round lots $1 40 ₱ cwt; chopped feed $1 25@1 30.

Country Produce.

APPLES—Are dull, with more sellers than buyers, particularly of the common and medium grades. Holders are anxious to realize, but buyers are in no hurry to take hold. Prices are easy and slightly lower. Choice eating apples rule at $1 25@1 50 ₱ barrel; large cooking do $2 75@3 00; common to medium grades in light demand at $2 00@2 50.

BEANS—The stock continues excessive and the market is weak. Prime white navy beans are quoted at $1 80@1 90 ₱ bushel; choice do $1 70@1 80 ₱ bushel; mediums are nominally $1 25@1 35.

BUCKWHEAT—The market is quiet with little doing. We quote jobbing lots at 90@95c ₱ 38 ₱ b.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—We quote buckwheat flour firm and stronger at $3 00@3 25 ₱ cwt.

BUTTER—The receipts for some days past have been large. There was, however, a good trade demand, particularly of the finer grades. We quote prime to choice dairy at 28@30c; fair to good 22@26c; common to fair 15@20c. The demand was moderate, and the supply equal the requirements.

CHEESE—The market continues to move rather slowly but steadily for prime qualities, with a fair stock in warehouses and moderate receipts. We quote prime Ohio factory at 13½@14c; Pennsylvania do 13@13½c; Sweitzer 16@18c; Limberger 15@16c.

CRANBERRIES—There is a moderately good inquiry with an easy tendency to prices. We quote at $10 00@11 00 per bbl.

DRIED FRUITS—Bright apples, sliced, 11¼@12c; Bright apples, quarters, 10@11c; Peaches, halves, new, 12½@13½c; Peaches, peeled, 20@22c; Blackberries 15@16c; Huckleberries 15@16c; Raspberries 33@35c; Cherries, pitted, 25@28c; Cherries, unpitted, 8@9c.

EGGS—The supply was liberal and market easy. Quotations for strictly fresh are 28@30c per dozen; pickled are in good supply and easy at 20@24c.

GAME—We quote venison at 18c per pound for short saddles; 15@16c for long saddles; whole deer 10@12c per pound. Rabbits sold at 20@25c per pair; squirrels are not wanted at any price; offered at 20c per dozen. Quail were quoted at $1 75@2 25 per dozen; grouse $4 00@4 50 per dozen; prairie chickens $4 00@4 50 per dozen; pheasants do $3 50@4 00.

HONEY—New domestic honey is steady at 25 @28c ₱ ₱. California is quoted at 30c ₱ ₱.

HORSE—Business in hogs is only for present use and prices continue depressed. Choice 1873s rule at 15@20c, while mediums are to be had at lower prices.

MINCE MEAT—Prices are quoted at 10½@11c ₱ ₱.

NUTS—The supply is liberal and the market easy. Chestnuts are easy at $3 00@3 25 ₱ bushel; peanuts are in fair request at easy prices; prime white Tennessee nuts rule at 6@6½c, according to quality; Virginia 7½@8c; shellbarks are easy at $1 25@1 50 ₱ bushel; walnuts depressed at 30@40c ₱ bushel; hazel nuts $3 50@4 00 ₱ bushel.

PEARS—There is a good demand, with choice Californias selling readily at $3 75@4 00 ₱ box.

POTATOES—The trade in round lots was unimportant, while from store the market was steady. We quote for round lots on track at 30 @35c for Peerless and Early Rose; 40@45c for prime peachblows. From store there is a quiet but easy market at 45@50c ₱ bushel.

POULTRY—The market is steady and firm under the influence of cool weather. Quotations are rather nominal, transactions being largely made in shaded prices. Live chickens are quoted at 4½@5c ₱ pair; live turkeys 7½c@$1 25. Dressed poultry were active and firmer; chickens 11@12c ₱ ₱; turkeys 14@16; ducks 14@15c. Geese 9@10c.

VEGETABLES—Onions are in large stock and dull. We quote at $1 15@1 20 ₱ barrel. Dried green peas are quoted at $1 65@1 75 ₱ bushel. Turnips 35@45c ₱ bushel. Beets 45@ 50c ₱ bushel. Parsnips 60@70c ₱ bushel.

Provisions.

BACON—We quote shoulders at 10½c ₱ ₱; prices for sides are lower, the new crop being fairly in the market; clear rib sides 12½c; clear sides 14c.

HAM—We quote plain sugar-cured easy at 15½c; sugar-cured shoulders 11½c; breakfast bacon is quoted at 15c; dried beef easy at 14½c; beef tongues, per dozen, $7 00; ham sausage 10c.

MESS PORK—The market is easy but not copularly lower. We quote at $22 00 per bbl.

LARD—We quote prime lard, refined, in tierces, ₱ ₱ 13¾@14c; half bbls do 14¼@14½c; in buckets, 15¾@15c; in 3 ₱ caddies, 17c; in 5 ₱ caddies, 16½c; in 2 ₱ pails, 17¾c; in 5 ₱ do; 17¾c; in 8 ₱ do, 17¾c.

LARD OIL—The market is easy. We quote extra, No. 1 lard oil, current make, $1 05 per gallon; No. 1 do, 90c; No. 2, 75c.

TALLOW—We quote chandlers' tallow at 10@ 10¼c; choice country rendered 9@9½c; medium do 7½@8c.

Groceries.

Green Coffees.	₱ ₱.	*Sugars.*	₱ ₱.
Fancy Rio	26 c	Standard A	10¾c
Choice Rio	25 c	Standard B	10¼c
Prime Rio	24 c	Do. extra C	10¼c
Good Rio	23 c	Extra C—yellow	9 c
Java	34 c	C—yellow	8½c
Roasted Coffees.		Franklin, B	9¼c
Rio, in papers	22@24c	Powdered	11¼c
Rio, in bulk	22 c	Crushed	11¼c
2d grades do	20@22c	Cowderes	11¼c
Java, in papers	36@38c	Granulated	11¼c
Java, in bulk	35½c	*Molasses.*	₱ gall.
Teas.		Cuba, N. O. new	42c
Young Hyson	50@81 00	Prime	60c
Gunpowder	50@$1 25	Good	58c
Imperial	50@$1 00	*Syrups.*	
Japan	55c@ 1 00	Ex. white drips	70c
Oolong	25c@ 85	Sugar drips	60c
Souchong	25c@ 85	Lower grades	37½@50c
Spices.		*Starch.*	₱ ₱.
Cloves	60 c	Pearl	4½@5 c
Alispice	18@19 c	Silver gloss	9½c
Cassia	33@35 c	Corn	8½c
Nutmegs	$1 35	*Rice.*	
Pepper	25 c	Choice Carl'a	7½@8 c
Soda.		Patna	7½@8 c
Bi-carb, in kegs	5 c	Louisiana	7 c
Bi-carb, in 5-lb papers	6 c	*Soaps.*	
Bi-carb in ₱ papers	7 c	Irish soap, ₱ box	$4 25
Candles.		S. S. Star, ₱ box	3 75
Star, full weight	18 c	Castile Soap, ₱ box	9 00
Stearine	16 c	Do. N. Y. City, ₱ box	6 00
Sperm	45 c	Palm soap, mottled	7½@8c

CANNED GOODS—There is a good demand at steady prices. We quote: Tomatoes, 2-lb cans ₱ doz, $1 90; peaches, 3-lb cans ₱ doz, $2 25@2 50; corn, 2-lb cans, ₱ doz, $2 25; Lima beans, 2-lb cans $2 25; string beans, 2-lb cans $1 90; cherries, 2-lb cans $2 25@2 50; blackberries, 2-lb cans $2 00; strawberries, 2-lb cans $2 00; raspberries, 2-lb cans $2 25; asparagus, 2-lb cans $3 75; pineapples, 2-lb cans $2 00; pears, 2-lb cans $2 25; pint pickles, $1 35; quart do $2 35; half gallon do $3 75; gallon pickles, $4 50; bbls containing 1,200 pickles, $8 25; hf-bbls containing 600 pickles $4 75.

FOREIGN FRUITS—There is a fairly active business at unchanged prices. We quote: Raisins —layer, new ₱ box, $3 25; London layers do $4 50; Valentias, new, 11¼@12c ₱ ₱; Sultanas 13c. Dates 8@9c ₱ ₱. Currants—New 8c. Citron 35c. Prunes—Turkey, 7@8c; French do 25c; do shelled 38c; do Princess 37c; do Jordan 50c; do Ivanes 50c. Walnuts—Naples 16c; French do 14c; Sicily filberts 14c. Smyrna figs 18@20c. Brazil nuts 10c. Maccaroni 15@18c. Tapioca 7@8c. Lemons—Messina, ₱ box, $7 00. Cocoanuts $7 00 per hundred.

Dry Goods.

GINGHAMS.

Lancaster	11¼
Glasgow	11½
White	11
American	9½

BROWN SHEETINGS.

Width	P'ce	Width	P'ce
Anchor A No. 1	36 ⅞	Lawrence LL	36 8
Penn Mill do	4-4 9	Lancaster E	36 8¾
Eagle No. 1	36 9	Lancaster A	36 8¾
Western trade	36 8	Laconia O	40 9
Magnolia	36 7¼	Laconia	9-4 28
Avondale	36 8¾	Laconia	10-4 32½
Conestoga A	39 6¼	Conestoga	10-4 30
Chipewa C	36 5¾	Waltham	46 13¾
Nonatook	4-4 8½	Juniata B Inc.	3-4 8

BLEACHED SHEETINGS.

Commonw'th O.	27 5¾	Lonsdale	36 11
Suffolk L	36 8	Lonsdale 4-4	36 12
Suffolk B	36 9	Fruit of Loom	36 11½
Hamilton AA	36 8	Bay Mill	36 12½
Rochdale	36 8¾	Davol	36 12½
Harris	36 9¼	Wamsutta	36 14
Gem of Spindle	36 10	Waltham	42 12¾
Hill, S'mpr Idem	36 10	Pepperell	9-4 30
Hill	36 10	Pepperell	10-4 35

PRINTS.

Anchor shirtings	7	Southbridge	7¼
Conestoga fa'cy	7¼	Oriental fancy	7¼
Hamilton fa'cy	7¼	Oriental fancy	7¼
Garner fancy	6¾	Hartel	6¾
Amoskeag fa'cy	6¾	Berlin solid	7¼
Richmond	7¼	Simpson's black	7¼
Merrimac	7¼	" fast black	7¼
Sprague fancy	6¾@7	" mourning	7¼
American fancy	6¾@7¼	Shirting	6¾

MISCELLANEOUS.

White carpet chain, fine	26
Colored carp't ch'n, fine	33
Cotton bat	16@18
Cotton twine	26

TICKING.

Conestoga X	7-8	Thorndike	7-8 11
Conestoga A	7-8	Portsmouth	4-4 25
Conestoga C T	4-4	Portsmouth	4-4 25
" gold m'd	4-4	Whittaker	7-8 30
" navm. A	4-4	Whittaker	4-4 34

[By Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, December 30.—Business continued dull in all departments. Cotton goods moved slowly, but leading makes of brown sheetings, corset jeans, etc., were firm. Fine bleached sheetings were in better demand and 5@7½c reduced prices. Plaid prints were in fair request, but fancy and shirting styles were quiet. Cassimers and worsted coatings were in limited demand. Foreign goods continued quiet.

Petroleum.

December 31.—The market was firm with a fair trade demand. The rates for crude here range as follows: $1 80 delivered from river and by rail $2 10 per barrel. At the above figures a good trade was transacted. Sales at wells at 1,500 barrels, as follows: United at $1 45@1 49¾; Conduit at $1 45@1 46¾; Supply means at $1 42½; Oil City $1 39¾.

The New York *Shipping List* of the 29th gives the following concerning the exports of petroleum:

Export since January 1:

	1875.	1874.
From New York	galls. 137,478,512	149,631,417
Other ports	91,060,265	82,387,208
Total	galls. 228,539,777	232,038,625
Same time 1873	galls.	238,446,69[illegible]
Same time 1872		191,825,007

Export from Boston last week:

To Liverpool, per R. J. Carleton, refined	Gallons. 13,393
London, per T. Thompson	3,500
A-pinwall	4,000
St. Pierre, Miq	28
St. Domingo	4,500
Halifax, N. S	215
British Provinces	2,630
Total	29,495

Export from Baltimore last week:

To Trieste, per Estella	refined. 133,715
To Trieste, per U. B. Fisk	131,215
Total	270,92[illegible]

Export from Philadelphia last week:

To Antwerp, per Guildfaxe	Gallons. refined. 168,200

REFINED—There was a fair trade demand. The present rates are for standard white on the cars 13¼@13½c. At New York refined is 13c for prompt. At Philadelphia there is a moderate demand at 12¾c bid; 12½c asked. At Baltimore there was not much doing at 12¾c bid.

OIL BARRELS—Are very dull and prices are altogether nominal; city made $1 15@1 20; country do $1 05@1 10.

[By Western Union Telegraph.]

OIL CITY, December 30.—The *Derrick* says: United, well certificates, is quoted at $1 42½@ 1 43; Union $1 43¾; Conduit $1 45@1 46¾; Upper creek was reported sold on Wednesday at $1 75; shipment $1 68½@1 70. Sales 67,000 barrels.

TITUSVILLE, December 30.—The *Courier* says: The market was very unsettled. Refined closed firm. The sales of crude were at $1 42¾@1 45¾, and closed at $1 43¾@1 45; Cornplanter and Union were 1½c higher, and outside lines 1½c lower. Pipe lines closed at $1 42½ bid and immediate shipment at $1 70@1 72½. The total sales were 25,000 barrels.

NEW YORK, December 30, closing 29.—Prices are a trifle higher in sympathy with the creek, with very little doing on speculative account. Sales of 500 barrels refined at 12¾c and 6,000 barrels do at 13c. Crude in bulk 7¾c for prompt and December and 8c for January. Crude in cars 10¾c on spot and for December; refined 13c for spot and December cases 16@16½c; naphtha 6@6¼c. At Baltimore refined is quoted at 12¾c bid; at Philadelphia 12½c bid.

PHILADELPHIA, December 30.—Market quiet: standard white 12½c; crude 6¾c; cases 10¾c. No sales and no futures offering.

BALTIMORE, December 30.—United $1 45; Union $1 40¾; shipment $1 73¾. Market firm and sensitive to higher prices.

TITUSVILLE, December 30.—Market firm; quoted at $1 72½@1 75.

OIL CITY, December 30.—Market very firm at $1 72½.

FRANKLIN, December 30.—Market quiet and firm at $1 67½.

TIDIOUTE, December 30.—Market firm at $1 72½.

[By Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, December 30.—Petroleum quiet and easier; crude 7¾c; refined 13c; cases 17@ 19¾c; naptha 8¾@9c.

PHILADELPHIA, December 30.—Petroleum firmer; crude in barrels 10½c; refined 12¾@12¾c. London, December 30—Spirits of petroleum 10¾@11d.

REFINED OIL SHIPPED EAST BY A. V. R. R.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls
Oliz'n Ref Co.	John S. Davis, Phila	496
J. A. McKee & S.	John S. Davis, Phila	500
D Bly & Co	John S Davis, Phila	154
Total		1,104

CRUDE OIL RECEIVED BY A. V. R. R.

December 29, 1875.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls
G M Koonsson	Liona Oil Works	74
Bushnell	National Oil Works	287
J Bushnell	Brilliant Oil Works	942
Total		1,304

Drugs and Chemicals.

DRUGS—There has been a fair jobbing business in drugs since our last report. The following revised list of quotations is furnished by Harris & Ewing, wholesale druggists, Liberty street:

Acid.		*Magcal.*	₱ 80	@ 1 00
Acetic	12 @	Mannas	85	@ 90
Citric	1 05 @	Manna SF	90	@ 97
Muriatic	3 @	Morphia sul	2 40	@ 2 50
Sulphuric	2½@	Nut Vo	1 35	@ 1 44
Tartaric	45 @	*Oil.*		
Alcohol, gal	2 30 @	Anise	3 80	@ 4 00
Alum.		Bergamot	5 50	@ 6 00
Cape	16 @	Cassia	2 50	@ 2 75
Soect	6 @	Cinnam	2 00	@ 2 20
Am Can	2 @	Cod liv, gal	2 00	@ 2 75
Aqua	8 @	Lemon	4 75	@ 5 00
Ammonia	50 @	Linseed, raw	60	@ 65
Ashes.		Linseed, boil	65	@ 70
Soda	4 @	Neats F, gal	90	@ 1 35
Bal Copa	45 @	Olive, pure	1 35	@ 1 50
Bayrum, gal	2 75 @	Olive, com	1 00	@ 1 25
Balsams.		Olive, qrts, doz	2 25	@10 00
Canada	35 @	" pints, doz	1 25	@ 3 00
Fir	1 00 @	Peppermint	3 00	@ 3 50
Copaiba	70 @	Peppert'h	3 00	@ 5 50
Tolu	60 @	Sassafras	1 00	@ 1 25
Wintergreen	75 @	Sassafras, h	85	@ 1 00
Bark		Spearmint	3 00	@ 3 50
Cassia	18 @	Tanners, gal	1 80	@ 2 00
Elm	8 @	Turpentine	65	@ 70
Wint'g'n	2 @	Whit'g'n	2 00	@ 2 25
Sassafras	12 @	Wint'g'n, h	1 75	@ 2 00
Pf Paris, bbl	3 75 @	*Paints.*		
Extracts.		Bichrom	8 @	26
Chloratc	30 @	Chlorate	30 @	37
Indigo	75 @	Iodine	3 75 @	3 87
Putty	3½@	Putty, h	3½@	4
Saltpetre	10 @	Saltpetre, h	10 @	12
Rosin	bbl 4 00 @	Rosin	bbl 4 00 @	4 50
Roots.		*Roots.*		
Gentian	8 @	Gentian, h	8 @	12
Ginger	15 @	Ginger, h	15 @	20
Jamaica	30 @	Jamaica, h	30 @	37
Jalap	50 @	Jalap pow	75 @	85
Liquorice	15 @	Liquorice, h	12 @	14
Rhub E	75 @	Rhub E, h	60 @	1 00
Sarsaparilla	25 @	Sars Hon, h	25 @	30
Senega	60 @	Senega, h	60 @	70
Valeri	20 @	Valeri Eng	30 @	40
Salts.		*Salts.*		
Epsom	4 @	Epsom, h	4 @	5
Ext Logwd	13½@	Sal Ammoh	14 @	16
Lig Calab	38 @	Soda ash	4½@	5
Italian	25 @	Soda sal	2¾@	3½
Sulphur	3 @	Sulphur, h	3 @	4
Gum		Gum		
Arabic sts	20 @	Arabic, po	30 @	40
" Whitch	40 @	Senna	25 @	30
Myrrh	35 @	Senna, Al	35 @	40
Shellac	60 @	Shellac, h	65 @	70
Tragacanth	75 @	Soda, h	5 @	6
"

CITY MATTERS

For eighty-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., Room 23, First National Bank, PITTSBURGH, PA., December 30, 1875.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum.	Wind. Dir.	Force.	Weath.
7 A. M.	30 06	42	91	E.	Light.	Cloudy
2 P. M.	30 04	68	50	S. W	Fresh.	Clear.
9 P. M.	30 17	52	83	Calm	Calm.	Clear.

Mean barometer....30.122 Highest thermom....68
Mean thermom.... 53.7 Lowest thermom....37

Iron City College

corner Penn avenue and Sixth street. Open day and evening. Students received at any time. For terms, call or address J. C. Smith, A. M., Principal.

The Pittsburgh Female College

will reopen January 3. Charges reduced. Room for only six more boarders. Apply to Rev. I. C. Pershing, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Beaver College.

Winter session opens January 4th. This institution has continued to flourish notwithstanding the panic. Prices lower than any first class institution in or about the city. R. F. TAYLOR.

Bold Robbery.

The residence of Captain John Darragh, corner of Kirkpatrick and Hill streets, Thirteenth ward, was entered on Wednesday, about noon, and robbed. Among other plunder, the thief carried away two valuable gold watches. The robbery was a daring one, as the house stands in a conspicuous place, in a thickly built neighborhood.

One Hundred Guns.

Hutchinson's Battery, Capt. E. Y. Breck, having received the requisite permission from Gen. Pearson, will welcome the advent of the Centennial year by firing a salute of one hundred guns, beginning on the stroke of twelve to-night. The battery is well drilled and well disciplined, and a credit to the city and State.

The Meeting To-Day.

Those interested in the improvement of the Ohio river, will bear in mind the public meeting called for this morning at eleven o'clock, at the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, to hear Col. Merrill on the lock and dam system. Those representing the coal interests have pointed out the disadvantages of this system; and it is presumed Col. Merrill, and others who may speak, will give the other side of the question. The subject is of sufficient interest to attract a large meeting and command intelligent discussion.

The Supreme Court.

The State Supreme Court will meet in Philadelphia, on Monday next, when several important cases from this county, argued last fall, are expected to be decided. Among these are the Thirty-seventh ward case, the Edgewood Railroad case, the Clark-McCully will case and the Smoky Island ejectment case. It is the impression, among members of the bar, that all these suits will be decided on the opening day of the session, as they are among the most important causes argued at the last session of the court.

The Late Thomas P. Houston.

The funeral of the late Thomas P. Houston took place yesterday morning, and was attended by a large number of friends of the deceased. The procession left the family residence, on Second avenue, about 10 A. M., and followed the remains to St. Paul's Cathedral, where the last rites of the church were performed. Rev. Father Reardon celebrated a solemn Requiem High Mass, assisted by Fathers Cassiday and Grace as deacon and sub-deacon. The choir was not present, but a class from the Convent school occupied the stand with a lady organist, and chanted responses necessary in High Mass. Very Reverend J. Hickey followed in an address appropriate to the solemn occasion, paying a feeling tribute to the character of the deceased. At the conclusion of the services at the church the remains were taken to St. Mary's Cemetery and interred in the family burial ground. The funeral was one of the largest that has ever taken place here.

Auction Sale

of valuable stocks and real estate at Thos. F. Stewart's sales rooms, corner Fifth avenue and Wood street, this evening, at half-past seven o'clock.

10 shares Citizens National Bank.
3 shares Iron City National Bk.
2 shares Mechanics National Bank.
6 shares Exchange National Bank.
20 shares Masonic Deposit Bank.
10 shares Fifth Avenue Bank.
10 shares Iron and Glass Bank, South Side.
20 shares Third National Bank, Allegheny.
50 shares Pittsburgh Coal and Mining Company. And other stocks.

At same time will be sold the property, No. 159 Fourth avenue, corner Cherry alley, formerly the home of J. R. Weldin, deceased. This property being immediately adjoining the site of new government buildings, and convenient to the post office house, makes it very desirable for offices, and could rent so as to pay a good interest on double the amount it is expected to bring.

Bond of Bellevue Cemetery for $10,000 00, conditioned for payment of $5,000 00 on or before December 31, 1875. The date of the bond being June 19th, 1873, to be sold on account of whom it may concern.

THOMAS F. STEWART, Auctioneer.

Interesting Nuptial Ceremony.

The cozy little church edifice of St. Paul's Episcopal congregation, Roberts street, in the Eleventh ward, was filled to its utmost capacity, last evening, to witness the marriage of Mr. Cornelius G. Barnett and Miss Sadie H. McIntyre, daughter of G. E. North, Esq., of the editorial staff of the COMMERCIAL. The church had been handsomely decorated for the occasion, and at seven o'clock every seat had been filled by invited guests, the gentlemanly ushers having performed their duties admirably. After a few minutes spent in anxious expectancy, the organist struck up the wedding march, when the bridal party appeared and marching leisurely up the aisle, took their position in front of the altar. They were received by the officiating clergyman, the venerable Rev. Thomas Crumpton, who performed the solemn and impressive marriage ceremony with that easy grace and dignity which characterize all his ministerial services. The beautiful young bride was given away by her father, their hands were joined in solemn troth, the pledges of love and fidelity were made, the Divine blessing invoked, and the happy couple pronounced man and wife. After receiving the congratulations of the minister, and of their more immediate friends, the wedded pair withdrew, and proceeded to the residence of the bride's parents, from whence they soon after started on a short wedding trip. The ceremonies, which were unostentatious throughout, were conducted with excellent taste, and the pleasing feature of the occasion was heightened by the fact that there was a true union of heart and feeling, as well as of hand. The best wishes of hosts of friends accompany the happy pair.

THE RIDDELL CASE.

A Law Student Charged with Perjury.

During the investigation in the matter of A. McFarland vs. John W. Riddell, Esq., the former testified that Mr. Wolcott, a law student in the office of S. C. Schoyer, Esq., informed him that Mr. Riddell intended leaving for California. Mr. Wolcott was called and testified that Mrs. Elizabeth Scott told him that story, and that she had her information from Mrs. Riddell herself. Mrs. Riddell denied the statement, emphatically, under oath, before the court. So the matter rested until yesterday, when Mrs. Scott appeared before Alderman Humbert and made an affidavit to the effect that she never had any conversation whatever with Wolcott on the subject; that neither Mrs. Riddell, nor any one else, ever told her that Mr. Riddell, or his family, were going to California, and that Wolcott's statement was entirely false.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. Riddell appeared before Alderman Humbert and made an information, charging Wolcott with wilful and corrupt perjury. A warrant was issued for the young man's arrest.

THE INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE.

Organization of the Board Elect.

The committee appointed to investigate the late election for directors of the Industrial Institute met again yesterday afternoon, and continued in session for several hours. The books and lists of members were examined, and a constitution had been adopted, but no conclusion was arrived at, as had been expected. The committee will meet again next week.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD.

The Board of Directors of the Institute met yesterday afternoon, held a meeting on Wednesday evening, there being present Messrs. A. M. Brown, W. J. Kountz, Alex. Nimick, James Johnston, S. T. Owens, J. H. Walters, Thos. T. Mitchell, Columbus O'Donnell and H. Monroe—nine all told. Mr. Nimick was called to the chair as *president pro tem.*, and Mr. Jas. Johnson chosen temporary Secretary. Permanent organization was then effected, and Mr. A. M. Brown chosen President of the Board, S. T. Owens, Treasurer, and Mr. Johnston was continued as Secretary.

The members were without certificates, but they claimed that this was unnecessary. Mr. Vaunote who is confined to his house by illness, and three others were absent.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT SEWICKLEY.

Sermon by Rev. John W. Nevin, D.D., President of Franklin and Marshall College Lancaster, Pa.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Sabbath last was a notable day at the First Presbyterian church, Sewickley. Though very unseasonable for Christmas, it was a regular "pet day," warm, bright and balmy enough for the middle of May. This beautiful church showed to the best advantage, with its stained glass windows, through which the sunlight came in the most brilliant hues. The congregation was unusually large, and the various exercises seemed to arouse the keenest attention. The

REVIVAL OF MUSIC

in the neighborhood, under the magnetic influence of that rare teacher, Professor C. Tetedoux, and the sympathy manifested by Dr. Bittinger in the Sewickley Choral Club and in his young people, doubtless had something to do with it. There must have been twenty or twenty-five in the choir, instead of three or four as was often the case formerly.

I once heard Lowell Mason, of Boston, say: "There are now and then days which occur but seldom, when the air, the circumstances, or both seem to harmonize, and the feelings of both choir and people seem to open up new views of the meaning of the hymns and the music." This must have been one of those days. At any rate, the voluntary and the hymns were sung in such a way as to attract the attention and sympathy of all.

THE LONG PRAYER.

After the invocation by Dr. Bittinger and the reading of a part of the sixth chapter of St. John, the pastor called on Dr. John W. Nevin to make the usual prayer before the sermon. This he did in a very impressive manner. As his voice trembled with emotion, and at times entirely died away for almost a moment or two, those who were newcomers in the neighborhood were surprised and began to wonder if he were sick, or if he were about to faint. But to those who knew how dear to him this congregation had been long, long ago—and how many of his brothers and sisters and children were present it did not seem strange.

There had been

A REUNION

of the Nevin family on Christmas eve at the house of T. H. Nevin, of the First National Bank, Allegheny. It was said there were over seventy, large and small, and they were nearly all present. Dr. Nevin was indeed the "elder brother," with almost the influence and authority of father among them since his father's death, about 1828. It was some nine years since he last was in Sewickley. Many changes had occurred, but here now, with two of his own children, seven brothers and sisters, of whom he was the eldest, met in the sanctuary to worship the God of their father and mother—the God who had so long preserved them and their families once more to meet amid scenes very dear to many of them from the evident presence of the Holy Spirit in days long gone by. Much of this evidently occupied the mind of the speaker as he stood up like

AN OLD PATRIARCH.

and plead with God for this people. One could hardly help feeling as if one of the old prophets, or some old Scottish bard or seer was at the desk. I cannot hope to make the ordinary reader enter into the reality of my description. Only those could do so who have known him as he used to be at Princeton, and here in Pittsburgh and Allegheny and who had seen that earnest, sad face, where a laugh or a smile seemed to have no home, and in whose very face and manner the awful themes of heaven and hell seemed at all times, to be living realities, and who never trifled, and who never, perhaps, in his life did a sensational thing, or hardly ever, in public, gave way to his feelings. I say that it took such persons to realize what this tremulousness and silence meant. In the forty-three years that I have known him, I had never seen anything of the sort. Few that were present will forget that prayer. In our glib-tongued, formal prayers, how little do we know of this awful wrestling for those whom we love, and whom we may not see again! It is not mere tones: it is the grand character that lies back of it, that weighs on our spirits. We recognize, as by a Divine law, true feeling, whether shown by look, or word, or silence—whether it be the uncultured, ungrammatical Moody, rejoicing in his homely telling phrases and illustrations, or the man to whom Latin, and Greek, and Hebrew, and German, and French are like his mother tongue, and before whose keen vision all sides and points of theology, and abstruse philosophy seem to be invested with the clearest light—it is all the same—what the soul demands is real feeling—honesty—character. Just so this man's character has always seemed to loom up to me since I first entered the Western Theological Seminary, in Allegheny. I venture to say that this is the judgment of all his students from that day to this.

ESTIMATE OF DR. NEVIN AS A PREACHER.

I hope I shall be pardoned for this long digression and even if I go on to say that an hour ago a gentleman of our city, who is very well known, in the presence of Rev. Mr. Secor, who had never met Dr. Nevin, said, "If I had known he was going to preach in Sewickley, I should certainly have gone down there to hear him."

The sermons he had heard him preach, and the accompanying prayers, seemed to be as fresh in his mind as if uttered yesterday, though he hadn't seen him for twenty years, and he could hardly restrain himself from going on to give them to us.

Is it so with the preaching of this day? If not, why not? I could hardly believe that this man's preaching had affected others as it had me, for I had heard others say his preaching was dull and prosy, and lengthy, and intellectual so as to confuse. No wonder some groaned as they thought of the sermon I am going to try to describe, which some say took nearly an hour and a half in its delivery. Well, I try not to blame them. Some of the Apostle Paul's hearers went to sleep, and one poor fellow came near breaking his neck. The case of the was worse by far, than Dr. Nevin, for he sometimes preached all night. Would not he be called in this enlightened age a dull old fogy? But to the sermon.

THE INTRODUCTION.

After another hymn, Dr. Bittinger rose to introduce this venerable doctor and teacher of theology, this scholar and writer who is not only well known in Europe and in America, but is still remembered in this region most tenderly by some of the most prosperous, wealthy and influential men in this city. They were then poor and yet full of industry, energy and pluck. Dr. Nevin was the animating spirit of the

PITTSBURGH YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY,

an organization for literary and moral improvement. Since beginning to write I learn that among the members of this society there were some names well known hereabouts. Among these I have heard the following named: James H. McClelland the late postmaster of this city; Wm. M. Shinn, Esq., one of the executors of the Rev. Charles A. Avery; Jas. Marshall, of the Farmers' Deposit Bank; Jesse Carothers, one of the first cashiers of the Exchange Bank; M. B. Miltenberger, James H. Cooper, James Burtgage, now of New Orleans; Rev. Andrew W. Black, D D., James Veech, Esq., the distinguished jurist and ought-to-be historian; Gen. Thomas M. Howe, Josiah King, Dr. Jonas R. McClintock, Thomas J. Bigham, Esq., W. W. Wallace, Samuel C. Huey, President Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, Philadelphia; Samuel Baird, John D. McCud, Philadelphia, and Daniel Bushnell.

I believe only six or eight yet survive. Some of these I have heard speak in the most grateful and affectionate terms of this good man.

"THE FRIEND."

One of the results of this society was the publication of a newspaper called *The Friend*, which was edited by Dr. Nevin, of which I have learned some particulars within a few minutes from the Mayor of this city, Hon. W. C. McCarthy. When he was printers' devil in McLean's book and job printing office, corner Fourth and Wood, second story, he, at the age of twelve or so, set up the type from the almost faultless manuscript of Dr. Nevin. At this time, Mr. McCarthy could not have been much over eleven or twelve years of age. He also handled the rollers, and Jas. Moorhead worked the press. Let any one ask of these survivors what manner of man this Dr. Nevin was, and who that knows anything of the history of Pittsburgh, does not know every man here named. But even they did not know how much of his labor, brains and money this effort cost. Perhaps they do not now how much of that after success in life depended on this Society and that paper. No wonder these gentlemen remember the good Doctor affectionately.

Dr. Bittinger said: For the sake of the children, young people and strangers in this neighborhood, I want to say it is no ordinary privilege and pleasure to me to welcome this pulpit to this good brother, who walked from Pittsburgh to Sewickley to organize the first Presbyterian Church here, which had now grown to its present dimensions. Personally it is a very great privilege to introduce to this congregation the founder of this church, who is now so widely and so well known.

Dr. Nevin selected as his text—that part of the Lord's prayer in Matt. 6.11: "Give us this day our daily bread." From the first sentence the closest attention of the people was aroused. I find it impracticable to give an idea of the earnestness and solemnity of his manner, and his clear cut sentences, vast and comprehensive grasp of thought. Fearing to trust myself to report such a sermon and indeed I called out of church before he was through I asked Dr. Nevin for an abstract of it or such a condensation of it as he could recall. This he consented to do and immediately went about it and the result, not withstanding the [illegible] powers of condensation [illegible] carried upon the steamboat [illegible] Chieftains.

[illegible] its structure. At first view the ten [illegible] arrangements might seem to be so many independent propositions loosely thrown together, when in fact they form a whole, made up of parts inwardly joined together and all organically flowing from God as their common living fountain. So with the several petitions of the Lord's Prayer. They are an organic system exhausting the full idea of Christian worship, and all flowing with inward common derivation from the idea of God in the introductory address, "Our Father who art in Heaven." This regards not God in the sense of His absolute being, outside of Christianity; but looks to Him wholly and exclusively under the view of what He is in Christ. He is the image of the invisible God in human form, in and by whom only it is possible for men to know or to appreciate God; according to His own word "he that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

The Lord's Prayer is thus made to rest in the faith of this self-manifestation from the beginning, and that faith is the soul of its several petitions, throughout. We pray it rightly only as we refer every part of it directly to God in Christ Himself, and see in all of it the unfolding sense of Christ and His kingdom, as an order of supernatural truth and grace in distinction from the word in every lower view.

Thus the petition, "Hallowed be Thy Name," regards at once the actualization of this kingdom in its broadest and most universal view. Christ himself is the Name of God, as he himself most plainly teaches. "Thy Kingdom Come," is a prayer looking to the carrying out of even the glorification of God in Christ means, in the new spiritual creation of angels and men. "Thy will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven," brings into view the rule and measure of this new creation among men, as determined by the living free obedience of the angelic world. And so then the fourth petition, "Give us this day our daily bread," looks also with inward necessity—not certainly to bodily life in the first instance but primarily and essentially to spiritual life, or the true and proper being of men as it holds in the soul. Our daily bread is first of all the nourishment, whatever that may be, by which only it is possible for us to live and grow spiritually in the spiritual kingdom, of which Christ is the perpetual source and head.

It is an easy and common figure of speech to place the food of the soul in the notion of mere knowledge, or science or learning. Such knowledge may be taken in from the outside of a man's life, so to speak, through the experience of the bodily senses, from human teachings and schools, and even from the truths of Revelation itself. But is this what we are to understand by the bread of life, the true pabulum of the soul, which is spoken of in the Bible, and which is the object of the prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread?" We answer, no. Every view of this sort involves in it the essential poison of rationalism. It is an attempt to drag the mystery of the world's redemption from its own proper spiritual place down to the level of mere ordinary mundane life, and it cannot stand for a moment in the clear light of God's inspired Word, as any one may see and feel at once in seriously reading the sixth chapter of the Gospel of St. John.

BREAD FOR THE SOUL?

Are we to understand then by the bread which is for the soul in its spiritual being, what material bread is for the body in its natural being? Not primarily outward truth, we say, addressed to the cold understanding; but such truth as is born of love, the two together forming the conception of life. The love in such case, the power that moves the will, is the essence of this life, while the light that attends it is the form of its existence. Life so regarded holds only in God, and it can reach into men only as something continuous derived to them from God. With thee, says the Psalmist is the fountain of life. The soul thus lives progressively only through the inflowing of this divine life; and such substantive communication of his divine life it is, which constitutes its proper food; the daily bread which we are taught to ask for in the Lord's Prayer. We are nourished if we have in us the life of God in this way; by both the constituents of this life, mainly, by the good inspired into our will from the Lord, and by the true illumination of our understanding from the bosom of the good. In this case, however, either the good nor the true, are to be viewed as things of thought simply; they are as positively substantial as the life itself in which they are joined together. They go thus really and truly into the organism of the spirit (angelic or human) just as natural food enters into the organization of the body which it serves to build up and support.

This spiritual food now by which we are nourished into everlasting life, the scriptures most unequivocally affirm to be summarily comprehended in the relation which Christ holds to the world as the glorified Son of Man. The humanity of the Lord thus made one with His divinity, is literally the only fountain of life, from which, as a preliminary reservoir, all men receiving it in Him, are looking to Him, are made to receive into themselves what is to be understood by life in its true spiritual form. Because I live, he says to His disciples, ye shall live also. In the language could more clearly assert the idea of such vital dependence and communion. His life was to be the original source to their life. They were to live only in and by the power of what He was to be, thus, forever, as the living head of His body, the church. And the grand declaration is no isolated or solitary testimony in the Bible. It is the universal teaching, in fact, of God's Word.

Here the sermon proceeded to quote a part of this scriptural teaching, in a way that the limits of the present abstract will not allow us to follow. See the conversation with the woman of Samaria, the ever memorable discourse of our Lord in the 6th chapter of St. John; the profoundly graphic parable of the vine and the branches, &c., &c.

HOW SPIRITUALLY NOURISHED.

So much for the fact of what Christ is unto us as the bread and water of life, the mystery of the prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread." But how now is it, that we are made to participate in such heavenly and spiritual nourishment, so as to have verified in us the glorious word, He that eateth of this bread shall live forever?

Not through mere thought or doctrine; not through right moral living and conduct; not through artistic forms and ceremonies; not through sentimental or spiritualistic experiences of any sort brought to pass from within our own minds. The case requires an objective medium, a visible divine constitution touching God on the one side and man on the other side, in and through which man may so draw nigh to the Lord of life and glory, that the Lord of life and glory shall draw nigh to him, in a real and not merely notional or imaginary way. Such medium or meeting place is offered for in the purposes in the Christian sacraments and in the Holy Scriptures.

The sacraments owe their efficacy to the Word which is always conjoined with their outward form where they are rightly used. Leaving them then out of farther consideration here, we lay all stress at present on the positive, visible side of God's holy Word, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, are the ultimate, indispensable and only covenant or meeting place where the faith of man may reach the life of the Lord, and the life of the Lord may so flow into the faith of man as to make of the two the heavenly marriage which lies at the ground of the whole idea of the Christian Church.

[This cardinal point the sermon now pressed at some length; laying stress on the thought that God's Word, as the uttering of God's mind, and not of any mind less than divine, must have in itself interiorly infinite sense and absolute goodness and truth: and this not as an inspiration simply setting it afloat at the beginning, but as an inspiration perpetually resident in every part and particle of it through all time. What our Saviour says of his His Word on one occasion, namely that they were spirit and life, must be held to be true of God's Word universally. It is itself living and life-giving—having in its own construction the power of making men who unto salvation. Where this is found properly receptive for the purpose, it is like seed cast into good soil which of itself germinates and grows, and blossoms into fruit, causing the man in whom it is, to flourish like a tree planted by the rivers of water. All this the word is, however, not from its earthly side, but from its heavenly side where it is found to be the very Shekinah of the incarnate Lord himself, shining into it and through it, for the illumination of faith humbly seeking Him thus in His own appointed way. The Word written and the Word incarnate in this manner come together as one (like body and soul), and reciprocally explain and authenticate each other. No Bible without Christ (the testimony of Jesus), but no Christ either without the Bible. They stand or fall together.

PRACTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

I. The only sufficient solution of the conflict between science and faith.

II. The true relation between nature and the supernatural.

III. The vanity of all so-called intelligence and freedom, that are not born of the life of the Lord flowing into men through his word.

IV. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole (not duty) but proper being of man.

In closing his discourse, Dr. Nevin, by way of apology for its length, took occasion to refer to what had been said of his relationship to the origin of the Sewickley church nearly forty years ago, and to the ties of affection with which he was bound otherwise to the congregation, adding with emotion that it was probably the last time he should have the opportunity and privilege of addressing them from the pulpit, and that for this reason he had desired especially to enforce upon their minds what he conceived to be the very core and immost substance of the gospel as he had now presented it to their attention. In view of which he asked them solemnly to receive it as his dying testimony to the truth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thus with the deepest feeling this venerable man closed this remarkable discourse.

JOS. S. TRAVELLI.

Suit for Penalty.

United States District Attorney Reed yesterday instituted civil suit in the United States Court against the Pittsburgh, Carnegie and Geneva Packet Company, to recover the penalty for a violation of the law in allowing vessels in transporting grain [illegible] charged that the explosive [illegible] carried upon the steamboat [illegible] material [illegible]

ALLEGHENY COUNCILS.

Last Meeting of the Council of 1875—Annual Reports of Committees and City Officers—Final Passage of the Printing Ordinance—Resolutions Complimentary, &c., &c.

Allegheny Councils held a special meeting last evening to close up the business of the year.

SELECT BRANCH.

The Select Council was called to order a few minutes before 8 P. M., President Patterson in the chair.

Annual reports were declared in order, when the city officers and the various standing committees reported. The report of the Controller for 1875 is published in another column. We give below abstracts of other reports.

WATER.

The report of the Water Committee embraces the following:

During the year the contract for the repairing and enlargement of the reservoir was let. The progress of the works and its partial completion is detailed. It is recommended that the floor of the eastern compartment be puddled in the same manner as the western compartment. The placing of larger water mains on leading streets is recommended. The machinery is reported to be in first class condition. The accompanying report of the Water Assessor was published yesterday. The report of the Superintendent of Water Works, H. C. Richmond, also accompanies the committee's report. Following is an abstract.

Total amount expended on new basins	$45,738 86
Total amount expended on old works	18,543 42
Total amount expended on new works	14,491 92
Total amount expended on streets	17,308 50
Total	$96,085 71
Credit on old iron, &c.	1,192 42
Total	$94,983 29
Whole number of ferrules issued	263
Pain Treasurer for same	$1,828 83

Pipe laid during the year—Number feet on streets: three-inch, 465; five-inch, 450; ten-inch, 415; four-inch, 1,428; six-inch, 5,756; twelve-inch, 156; total, 8,910; laid at basin, 960; total feet, 9,810. Forty-one stop gates, sixteen fire plugs and four washouts were placed.

As to the Lowry engine, the Engineer says it will answer all practical purposes for some time to come. The average running time of the engine is about six hours. Average consumption of coal about 725 bushels per twenty-four hours. Water delivered in basin, about 4,000,000 gallons per day.

STREETS AND SEWERS.

The Committee on Streets and Sewers reported for the year twenty-two streets and alleys graded and paved. Length of miles, 2.15; cost, $112,496 60. Total miles of streets and alleys graded and paved at present, 77.15; cost, $1,926,924 03.

Sewers constructed during the year, 12. Aggregate length, 1.6 miles. Cost, $671 54. Total length in city, 24.34 miles. Cost, $832,955 40.

The necessity of a main sewer on McClure avenue is spoken of.

The reports of Street Commissioners Tyson and Hanna accompany the committee's report. They show:

Expenditures in Eastern district	$21,647 56
Receipts and credits	247 64
Net expenditures	$20,999 92
Expenditures in Western district	$18,376 29
Receipts and credits	1,176 91
Net expenditures	$17,250 48

SURVEYS.

The annual report of this committee was accompanied by the report of the City Engineer, from which we take the following:

This report contains, in addition to the figures in the report of the Street Committee, the following points of interest:

Plans of proposed street openings and extensions have been prepared, representing 1.96 miles in length. Levels have been run and profiles made for twenty streets, 25.5 miles. The street work is now chiefly confined to outer districts. The four great outlets, Butler Plank road, Saw Mill Run road, Perrysville road and New Brighton road are in about the same condition they have been for eleven years, owing to the want of a proper paving law. Defects in the street opening law are pointed out.

Number lots registered	1,000
Number lot surveys made	107
Number lot plans made	107
Total receipts from above	$880 00

A portion of the report is devoted to the history of the work, on the reservoirs.

Expense of sewers to property abutting	$ 393,070 74
Expense of sewers to city	429,884 66
Total	$ 822,955 40
Expense of streets to property abutting	1,893,587 85
Expense of streets to city	17,780 18
Total	$1,911,368 03
Assessments to property on streets and sewers to January 1, 1876	2,286,658 59
Assessments to city on streets and sewers to January 1, 1876	417,694 34
Gross total	$2,734,323 43

PARK COMMISSION.

A report of the year's operations of the Park Commission was presented.

Their financial statement is as follows:

Appropriation	$12,000 00
Expenditures	12,000 00
Balance on hand	$ 300 00

The necessity for protection of the improved grounds, owing to to the great increase of travel, is brought to the attention of Councils.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.

The report of business in the Mayor's office for the year 1875 was presented. It shows that the receipts of the office from fines, licenses, etc. were $4,569; number of arrests, 1,677. Of these 1,077 were sent to jail, 225 to the Workhouse, 18 to the Reform School and 73 for court; discharged, 634; entered bail for court, 38; escaped, 1; paid fines, 561; sent to the City Farm, 2; charges withdrawn, 14.

THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

The annual report of City Solicitor W. B. Rodgers was presented, from which we extract as follows:

Filed municipal liens to recover assessments in 88 cases.

Amounts paid Treasurer—	
Grading and paving assessments	$25,118 26
Sewer assessments	4,825 07
Opening and widening streets	11,570 00
Miscellaneous assessments	2,116 71
Total	$43,457 12

The Solicitor says some additional legislation concerning streets is much needed. Under the present law no provision is made for compensation to any owner when property is damaged by reason of the grades of a street. Under the new Constitution parties damaged in such cases are entitled to compensation, and for recent such damages must be paid out of the City Treasury. Legislation authorizing the assessment of such damages upon the property benefited would relieve the difficulty. He prepared such an act last year, too near the close of the session, however, to admit of its passage. He also recommends the passage of an act authorizing the issue of bonds in cases of street improvements, and allowing the assessments to be collected in installments.

The Finance Committee's monthly report was presented, accompanied by the monthly report of the Controller, recommending the payment of the following amounts of bills, &c., passed by the committee:

Salaries	$ 3,085 03
Fire Department	3,830 11
Printing	67 39
Streets	3,397 88
Wharves and Landings	86 94
Surveys	100 00
Police	4,063 67
Water Works	427 29
Gas	1,842 35
City Property	268 48
Health	482 03
Markets	160 32
Total	$20,172 29

Mr. Cochran presented the profile of lots of A. M. Marshall, in the Seventh ward, and the same was approved.

Common Council business was taken up and the action of that branch concurred in.

THANKS, ETC.

Mr. McKeivy offered a resolution of thanks to President Patterson for his services during the year, and Mr. Huckestine did the same for Clerk R. T. White. They were passed unanimously.

The retiring members were also complimented by resolution, which elicited appropriate speeches from Mr. Walton and others, after which the Council adjourned *sine die*.

COMMON BRANCH.

The Common Council was called to order at eight P. M., President Price in the chair.

The business transacted at the last meeting of Select Council was taken up, and the action of that branch was, without exception, concurred in.

THE CITY PRINTING.

The amended printing ordinance from Select Council was next considered.

Mr. Golden moved to adhere to former action on the ordinance originally passed by this branch, which provides for the election of but one English paper, but subsequently withdrew his motion and the ordinance was passed finally.

An ordinance for the payment of Johnston & Wilhelm for construction of stone walls on Howard street, passed in S. C, was passed finally.

Annual reports of committees were next presented.

HEALTH.

The following is a synopsis of the annual report of the Health Committee:

The general health of the city is about on the average of previous years. Fifty-two cases of small pox for the year have been reported. Liberal provision for the maintenance of the pest house is recommended to the incoming Councils.

The accompanying report of the Health Officer, C. Hoch, shows 2,097 nuisances abated during the year, 26 suits brought in which verdicts were rendered for the city, and recommends that butchers be prohibited from casting offal into the sewers. The financial statement accompanying shows

Total expenditures for the year	$2,982 24
Receipts	353 00
Net expenses	$2,509 24

Following are the leading statements in the report of W. W. Cole, City Physician:

Total deaths in the city for the year, 851; white 811, colored 40; males 417, females 434. Deaths of previous year, 1,437; decrease 45 per cent. A table of ages and also a list showing number and nomenclature of diseases follows. The number of cases of smallpox in the city during the year under charge of the City Physician were 21; deaths 2. Number of cases at pest house 15.

The [illegible] in humanity of maintaining the pest house at so great distance from the city—nine miles. Attention is also called to the general neglect of vaccination of many residents of the city. Physicians and undertakers are recommended to give fuller details in death certificates.

Meat Inspector Drexler's report contains a history of the discovery and suppression of the horse meat bologna sausage factory. Beside the Diamond market there are about 100 meat shops in the city. From 25 to 30 shops per day are visited. The following confiscations were made during the year: 8,140 pounds of meat of all kinds; 100 pounds of poultry; 329 head of live stock, of which 305 were sheep, and six wagon loads of vegetables and fruits.

GAS.

From the report of the Gas Committee we find that the expense incurred for gas and lighting street lamps and public buildings for the year was $17,932; lamps, posts and incidentals $229 31; labor, $1,013 37, total, $21,174 68. Fifty-four new lamps were erected during the year; making 953 in use. Accompanying is the report of the Superintendent of the water works relative to gas lamps, showing the location of each.

MARKET.

The Market Committee reports in substance as follows:

Total receipts for 1875	$28,303 09
Total receipts for 1874	28,779 79
Decrease	$ 2,476 70

WHARVES.

The Wharves and Landings Committee make the following report:

Total receipts for 1875	$ 2,307 25
Total receipts for 1874	1,900 55
Decrease	$ 406 70

CITY PROPERTY.

The property of the city is reported to be in good condition, except one or two engine houses. The erection of the proposed new engine house in the First ward is recommended.

FIRE ENGINES.

The Fire Committee report apparatus, hose, horses and telegraph in perfect order. New engine houses are badly needed for Hope and Friendship companies. Chief Crow is awarded great credit for his efficiency. Accompanying the above is the Chief Engineer's report, published yesterday.

POOR.

The Committee on Poor Farm reported the following statement, from Clerk McGonnigle, of the Board of Directors: Average number of inmates of the Home during the year, 222; inmates of Insane Department, 48; expenses of running the Home, $19,174 84; inmates at the close of the year, 268.

The Physician of the Home recommends that all the children in that institution be sent to an asylum.

The cost of maintaining the inmates of the Home is $112 each, or $2 11 each per week.

The receipt of a cabinet organ as a present to the Home is acknowledged.

The number of men employed at the Home during the past three months was fifty.

A committee has been appointed to attend the Altoona Tramp Convention.

An invitation from the Poor Directors to the Mayor and members of Council to visit the Poor Farm to-day was read. The paper was received and Council resolved to attend in a body.

COMPLIMENTARY RESOLUTIONS.

Messrs. Golden and Sholes each presented a set of resolutions complimenting President Price for the able and faithful discharge of his duties. The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Mr. Price responded in a few appropriate remarks.

Resolutions thanking Clerk Dilworth and Messenger Lupton for the fidelity with which they had discharged their duties, were also adopted.

After brief speeches by several members Council adjourned *sine die*.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Meeting of Select Branch—No Quorum in Common—The Street Ordinance Fails—Other Matters of Interest.

The last meeting of councils for the year 1875 was held yesterday afternoon. In the common branch no quorum was obtained. Following are the proceedings:

SELECT BRANCH.

Mr. Metzgar called up the ordinance redistricting the city for street purposes, fixing the salaries of the commissioners, defining their duties and the duties of the City Engineer in connection therewith. The ordinance had been amended by making the salaries of the commissioners of the first two districts $1,200, the others being kept at $1,000, and was laid over to be printed.

The rules being suspended on the motion for third reading and final passage of the ordinance, Mr. Buckley urged that the South Side merchants must be made within one month or it will not hold, was decided as well taken, so that the matter laid over.

The ordinance relative to the sale of merchandise in the city of Pittsburgh, by wagons or otherwise, was called up and passed finally.

Mr. Metzgar presented a resolution returning thanks to E. S. Morrow, City Clerk, for his uniform kindness, ability and efficiency in the performance of his duties. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Littell offered a resolution of thanks to Dr. A. H. Gross, President, which was also passed unanimously.

The ordinance providing that the cleaning, firing and "watching" of Municipal Hall shall be given out by contract, was taken up and discussed.

Mr. Aiken, Mr. Braun and others spoke against the ordinance, saying that it would not do to have any man watch the treasury, that the contractor might provide. The ordinance failed.

Adjourned.

Common Council failed of a quorum and hence no business was transacted in that branch.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

THE grass has been growing quite vigorously under the genial influences of the past few days.

THE Sixtieth Council of the city of Pittsburgh expired yesterday, and the Sixty-first opens on Monday next. The King is dead: long live the King.

LETTUCE has already appeared upon the stalls of our market gardeners, the weather is favorable for an early supply of green peas and cucumbers.

BENEDICT MICHELHEISLER and wife yesterday filed a bill in equity to restrain Johannes P. Snyder from selling upon a house and lot belonging to Mrs. Michelheisler, upon a judgment obtained against the husband. It is alleged that the property was left to the wife, while she remained the wife of Benedict.

MR. JOSEPH F. EGAN, formerly connected with the business department of the COMMERCIAL, and now a clerk in the State Treasurer's office at Harrisburg, was married on Tuesday evening, in St. Peter's R. C. church, Reading, to Miss Maggie Kerns, of the latter city. Many friends in the Smoky City "Joe" and his good wife's long and happy life.

RURAL DISTRICT ROBBERIES.

A Clue to the Perpetrators Important Arrests.

Through the efforts of Mr. Ralph White, of Bakerstown, important arrests have been made, and a clue obtained to the perpetrators of the various robberies persistently perpetrated in the districts surrounding the city. Mr. White yesterday with due formality obtained the issue by Mayor McCarthy of a search warrant on the premises of Albert Fortege, of Union township. Officers were sent to execute the warrant and goods were discovered that had been stolen from Mr. White, on Saturday night last. The stolen articles consisted of a whip, a bridle, a lap blanket and a barrel of oats, &c